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Nato uses rebel intelligence



The KLA is helping to spot Serb tanks and artillery for Nato's pilots, writes **Anthony Loyd** in Skopje

NATO is using intelligence supplied by the Kosovo Liberation Army on the ground to help its planes to locate and destroy Serb positions in the war-torn province.

Despite repeated claims by Nato that it has no formal links with the rebel fighters, *The Times* has witnessed how the rebel fighters, using with satellite telephones, are providing detailed reconnaissance for Nato bombers. The intelligence is passed to Western "handlers" who relay the targets to the alliance, enabling Nato to claim that it has no "formal links" with the rebels.

In one exchange this week Sokol Bashota, a member of the KLA general headquarters staff, sent an urgent message from Berisa mountain, 22 miles west of Pristina, giving the location of Serb tanks and artillery around the villages of Orlate, Kisna Reka and Trpeze. The voice on the satellite line sounded tinny, disembodied and stressed and the information may well have monitored by the Serbs, but there was no mistaking the urgency of the call:

"There is no escape for anyone in this area ... the Serbs are attacking us from three directions and have forces to the south ... we are trapped and need Nato's help ... we have 40,000 civilians plus on the mountain ... many have been living under open skies for three weeks now ... exposure and hunger ... no medical supplies ... shelling us ... need urgent Nato intervention ..."

However, it will be many hours, at best, before Nato jets react to the call. Because of the organisation's reluctance to deal directly with the KLA the information has to be relayed first through a Western diplomat in Macedonia, then conduited to a Nato officer, before it is evaluated and finally acted upon, having passed again through another set of command filters. There is the real danger that the Serbs can pick up Mr Bashota's call, complete their mission and redeploy their tanks and artillery before the KLA commander's information is anywhere near being transposed onto a target list for a Nato pilot.

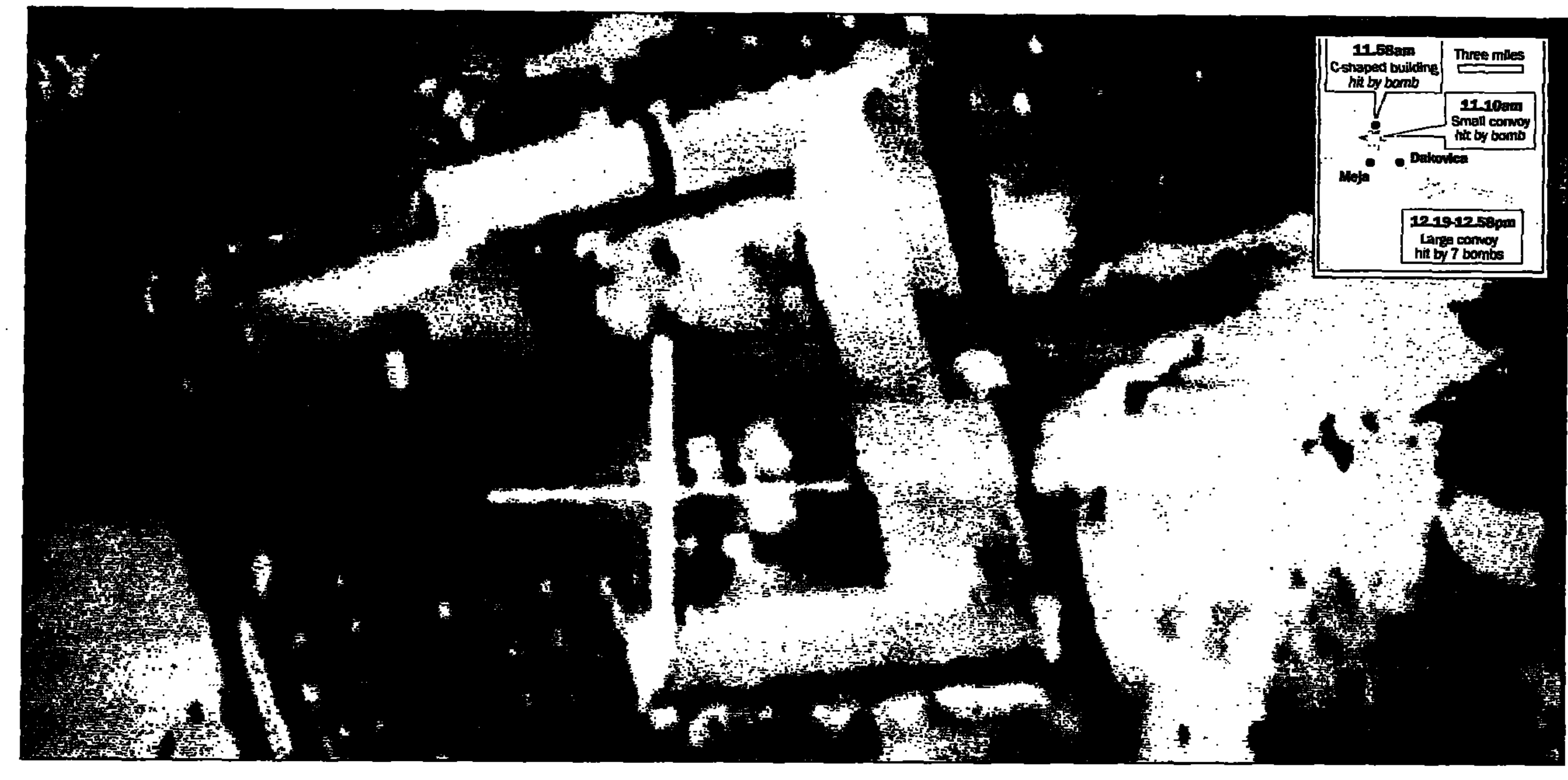
At pains to distance itself from the separatists, while at the same time accepting that both parties share a common enemy, Nato has emphasised that it has no direct dealings with the rebels. "There is a concern within Nato that once its troops are inside Kosovo the KLA could be part of the problem," one of the diplomats "handling" the KLA calls said.

The only practical help from the West in terms of equipment has been the satellite phones. Now used to gather intelligence, these were issued months ago to maintain communication between the guerrillas and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) monitors sent in to verify the defunct October ceasefire deal brokered between the American special envoy, Richard Holbrooke, and President Milosevic.

There are only a few KLA "handlers". Most have previous military experience, and have all worked inside Kosovo before the airstrikes.

Sunday's conversations included details of heavy fighting throughout the day as the Serbs, taking advantage of low cloud cover, corralled tens of thousands of refugees down from the hills onto roads using tank and anti-aircraft fire.

As well as the attack on Berisa mountain, KLA commanders spoke of a vast column of refugees, including many wounded and dying, stretching for 12 miles along the road from Podujevo to Pristina. "The guys we are speaking to accept that we're doing the best we can to relay their information and that that is our role," one of the handlers said. "It isn't as if we can jump into a cockpit and fly the strike missions ourselves. The fact their command and control still exists is significant."





The aerial picture, above, of Nato's attack on a civilian target at Meja, supplied at yesterday's briefing and, right, damage on the ground

WAR REPORTS

Britain revamps media strategy

By Roland Watson and Charles Bremner

NATO last night offered its fullest explanation yet of the bombing of civilian refugees as Downing Street's new influence over the alliance's media strategy began to take hold.

In an attempt to draw a line under the most damaging incident of the four-week campaign, Nato admitted for the first time that its jets had attacked two separate convoys last Wednesday.

The admission was delivered in unprecedented fashion by US Brigadier General Daniel Leaf.

His testimony marked an attempt by Nato chiefs in Brussels to make a clean breast of the incident which has been marked by confusion since last Wednesday.

The strategy was pieced together with Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, who moved to Nato centre stage yesterday.

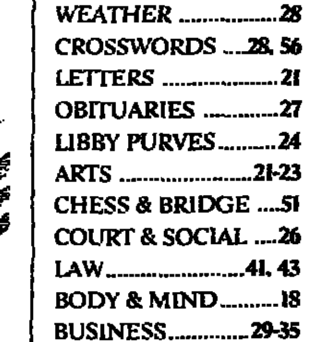
His involvement, which is likely to continue throughout the conflict, came as the Government took a lead in bolstering the alliance's communications strategy.

One Downing Street official, Julian Braithwaite, No 10's foreign affairs press officer, has been seconded indefinitely to Nato.

Other Whitehall officials are likely to follow, and Mr Campbell wants other Nato governments to help beef up the communications team.

Mr Campbell was called in last week by Javier Solana, Nato secretary general, and Jamie Shea, the alliance's London-born spokesman, to advise on strategy.

The growing involvement of Mr Campbell reflects unease both in London and in Brussels at the shortcomings in Nato's communications strategy, particularly following the bombing of the civilian convoy last week.





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Marlboro Man rides off into a smoke-free sunset

From Damian Whitworth in Washington

AMERICA will never look quite the same again. Marlboro man and Joe Camel, for decades landmarks of the US skyline and popular culture, have been banished.

Within two days all giant billboards promoting cigarettes will have been consigned to the ashtray of advertising history.

Under the financial settlements between the tobacco industry and the American states to cover the health costs of smoking related diseases, the huge cigarette advertisements, which have dominated billboards for decades, were outlawed and ordered to be torn down by midnight on Thursday.



The removal is transforming the scenery along the nation's highways. The tobacco industry, aware that it would soon be banned from the airwaves, voluntarily stopped advertising on radio and television in the early 1970s.







No butts: Joe Camel and Marlboro Man are banned

It then poured millions of dollars into erecting the towering hoardings.

By the 1980s a third of outdoor advertising was for tobacco products. In recent years it has fallen off, but still accounts for 9 per cent of the industry's $2.33 billion (£1.5 billion) revenues.

For a quarter of a century from 1941 the Camel billboard in Times Square emitted smoke signals through an ingenious device behind the hoarding. Marlboro Man, who last week was voted the most significant icon of the century by the American trade magazine *Advertising Age*, has come to dwarf motorists, most famously above Sunset Strip in West Hollywood where he was 64ft high.

Not only must the advertisements come down, but while the companies are still paying for the billboards — in many cases until the end of the year — anti-smoking messages will be displayed. In some cases Marlboro Man is replaced by a sign that says that secondhand smoke sends 100,000 babies a year to hospital.

The owners of the hoardings are putting a brave face on it. "Overall we'll lose 10 per cent of our annual income. But that's okay. It's for the best," said one.

INSIDE

Neo-Nazis planted bomb

A MAN claiming to represent the neo-Nazi Combat 18 organisation yesterday took responsibility for the Brixton nail bomb attack (Stewart Tendler writes). The claim was made in a 999 call at dawn from a telephone box in Well Hall Road, Eltham, south London. The box is a few hundred yards from the spot where Stephen Lawrence was stabbed to death by a gang of white youths six years ago. The man told police: "This is Combat 18. We claim responsibility for yesterday's bomb." If the group is responsible it would be mark a new level of violence for the tiny organisation which **Continued on page 2, col 5**

Right wing celebrates

JUBILANT supporters celebrated the strong election performance of Turkey's ultra-right Nationalist Action Party, running second to Bulent Ecevit's Democratic Left Party......16

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Ulster's silent bystanders see a bleak future

Martin Fletcher reports on how last year's optimism has turned to apathy over stalled Good Friday accord

ONE year ago a remarkable 675,966 Northern Ireland voters marched to the polls to record their overwhelming support for the Good Friday peace accord. Today they are silent bystanders as the accord threatens to collapse.

Last May 71 per cent of a near-record turnout backed a deal to end 30 years of conflict and restore self-government for the first time since 1974. Today their optimism has turned to weary resignation.

One of the paradoxes about Northern Ireland is that the common man is uncommonly well informed about politics, but very reluctant to become politically engaged.

*Politics here is highly polar*ised, highly adversarial and often dangerous. Party membership is half the British average. Before last year politicians had singularly failed to deliver, and the great majority of people had given up on them. Now it seems that after that short period of hope they are turning off once more.

The stakes for the province are huge, but there have been no pro-accord rallies outside Stormont, no clarion calls from civic leaders, no popular petitions and no flood of letters to local newspapers. It has always been easier to whip up opposition than support in Northern Ireland, and the only significant political demonstrations in recent weeks have been mounted by the accord's opponents.

The Women's Coalition and two other small political parties recently paid £7,000 for 30 purple billboard posters declaring "The Good Friday Agreement — It Can Work. It Will Work. Make It Work". In March the local CBI, Trade Union movement and Council for Voluntary Action persuaded 200 businesses and other groups to sign a letter encouraging the politicians to "complete the transition to a normal and democratic society". But that is about all.

At a time when the Government needs maximum pressure put on the province's political leaders there is very little. "There's a dull acceptance of fate," said a senior member of the editorial team of the *Belfast Telegraph*. "There's a silence as people sit back and wait to see what happens next."

People felt "really powerless", said Quintin Oliver, the lobbyist whose "Yes Campaign" helped to generate last May's 81 per cent turnout. Some had succumbed to "apathy and disillusion". Others were clinging to a "naive optimism" that the peace process would surmount this crisis as it had so many others.

The people of Northern Ireland have seen umpteen peace initiatives founder over the past three decades. "We were able momentarily to mobilise people into a vote last year, but people are now thinking its real shrug time," Mr Oliver said. "The weariness is now writ larger because of the expectations and hope engendered last year. In some ways the distance from the political process is greater because they elected people last June and those people have not been engaging with them on bread-and-butter issues."

Another reason for the lack of public pressure is that the people are as divided as the politicians in their interpretations of the accord. Most Protestants side with Unionist demands for IRA disarmament before Sinn Fein can join an executive. Most nationalists believe the executive should be formed immediately. "The public also want a settlement on their terms. That makes it hard for the public to unite," said Seamus McAleavey, director of the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action.

That lack of unity is compounded by the even deeper split within Unionism. Polls suggest that after a year in which 260 terrorist prisoners have been freed without any reciprocal gesture from the IRA, a majority of Unionists now oppose the accord. The *News Letter*, Northern Ireland's Unionist newspaper, is receiving six letters against the the accord for every one that supports it, and most of those are from political activists.

A full year after the accord was clinched it remains unimplemented. It is now increasingly likely that Northern Ireland will have to suffer the embarrassment of watching London devolve power to Scotland and Wales first.

DEADLOCK REMAINS

***Tony Blair and Bertie* Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, failed to break the deadlock over IRA disarmament during five hours of intense talks at Downing Street yesterday, but agreed that suspending the Good Friday accord over the summer was too dangerous.**

They held successive meetings with the leaders of the Ulster Unionist Party, Sinn Fein and the nationalist SDLP, but *Mr Ahern conceded after*wards that little progress had been made.

He said that the Unionists and Sinn Fein would both have to make concessions to end the impasse caused by the IRA's refusal to start disarming and David Trimble's refusal to admit Sinn Fein to government until it does. The two Prime Ministers will convene another round of talks next week.



Cardinal Basil Hume makes his first public appearance yesterday since announcing that he is dying of cancer. He celebrated a Requiem Mass for the former Bishop of Brentwood, Patrick Casey, at Westminster Cathedral

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lawrence suspects charged

Two of the men suspected of the murder of Stephen Lawrence were charged with burglary after police were called to a commercial depot at Swanley, Kent.

David Norris, 22, from Chislehurst, southeast London, will appear before magistrates today. Jamie Acourt, 23, from Eltham, also southeast London, was released on police bail. A third man, Daniel Caetano, also 23, from South London, was also charged with burglary and freed on police bail.

The three are accused of stealing 32 cases of empty soda siphons worth £224 from the depot. Two weeks ago Mr Norris and Mr Acourt took part in television interviews with the other three suspects to protest their innocence over the murder of Stephen Lawrence six years ago.

MP must wait to resume seat

Fiona Jones, the Labour MP cleared of falsifying her election expenses last week, must wait for a High Court ruling before she can resume her seat in the House of Commons. In a statement to the House yesterday, the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, said that although Mrs Jones's conviction had been quashed, it was up to the High Court to decide her fate. Miss Boothroyd said it would be "desirable . . . to avoid this kind of situation in future".

Brown facing fuel duty revolt

Gordon Brown faces a revolt by Labour MPs unless he abandons plans to raise petrol prices by 6 per cent above inflation. The Chancellor will today come under fresh pressure to abandon the fuel duty escalator, which has made Britain's fuel prices the most expensive in the European Union. MPs are preparing to challenge him today when the Finance Bill containing his Budget measures comes before the Commons.

Husband on murder charge

Dennis Day, 55, a teacher, appeared before magistrates at Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, charged with the murder of his wife Ann, 47, who disappeared last week after going for a walk with her dog. He was remanded in custody. Dyfed-Powys Police began a search last Wednesday after Mrs Day, a mother of three, and deputy head of a primary school, was reported missing. Police said that the search was continuing.

John McCarthy gets married

John McCarthy, 43, the journalist held hostage in Beirut for five years, was married to Anna Ottewill, 32, a BBC publications editor, at St Mary's Church in Bepton, West Sussex. Jill Morrell, his former girlfriend, was not present. Among the guests were Mr McCarthy's fellow Beirut captives Terry Waite, Brian Keenan, Terry Anderson and their wives. Mr Waite said: "It was a perfect day — just as the couple wanted it to be."

Land Planning Associates

Land Planning Associates (article, Weekend, February 13) of Thurston, Suffolk, asks us to make clear that its Town and Country Property Plan is not a "get rich quick" scheme and nor does it exploit planning loopholes or target areas where there are dormant development plans. It is designed to maximise the development potential of land in approved areas and offers protection from demand for development of land claimed as open countryside.

CORRECTION

The Museum & Galleries Commission's new website is www.museums.gov.uk (report, April 15).

Tories fear welfare revolt

By Roland Watson
Political Correspondent

SENIOR Conservatives yesterday warned the party leadership not to abandon the search for private money to fund Britain's welfare state.

Their fears surfaced after the mould-breaking message delivered by Peter Lilley that it was time for the Tories to accept the free market had only a limited role to play in the health and education systems.

Tory MPs reacted to his remarks, to be fleshed out in an address tonight, with a mixture of unease and alarm.

Mr Lilley's speech, which had not been discussed at Shadow Cabinet, is seen by Tory strategists as a critical step in rehabilitating the party among the voters of Middle England.

In her speech to last year's Tory conference, Ann Widdecombe spoke of the need to "break down the Berlin Wall" between the public and private sector.

One senior MP warned that if the new Lilley doctrine meant any backtracking on those ideas, William Hague would face a party revolt.

Report on PC's killing calls for police training

By Alexandra Frean, Social Affairs Correspondent

POLICE officers should be given special training in dealing with mentally-ill people who are known to be violent, a report into the killing of a young woman police officer recommended yesterday. The report into the death of PC Nina Mackay, 25, in October 1997 criticised the police, social workers and the National Health Service.

PC Mackay was stabbed to death by Magdi Elgizouli, a paranoid schizophrenic, when she used a hydraulic ram to batter down the door of his flat in Stratford, East London, after he had jumped bail for an earlier offence. Elgizouli, 30, was detained indefinitely at Rampton hospital last year after being found guilty of manslaughter.

The independent inquiry team found that Elgizouli had been granted bail ten days *before he killed* PC Mackay, despite having a history of violence and severe mental illness.

While accepting that police acted in "good faith", the report questioned why the Armed Territorial Support Group, of which PC Mackay was a part, was sent to arrest Elgizouli without first gaining sufficient information about his background.

The inquiry criticised social services for failing to provide adequate housing and support for Elgizouli and the health services for failing to pass on vital information about his mental state to GPs when he moved. It recommended that the police undertake a review with health and social services of how to respond to potentially violent mentally-ill people.

Sally Retrieves, director of public health for Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster Health Authority, said all the agencies involved accepted the report's recommendations. "We have a duty to [PC Mackay's family] and to Mr Elgizouli and his family to try to ensure such tragedies are prevented," she said.

Neo-Nazis admit bombing

Continued from page 1

has specialised in attacks and threats against liberal politicians and celebrities.

As police began investigating the call senior detectives revealed that the bomb was made with 6 to 10lb of nails up to six inches long. Thirty-nine people were taken to hospital after the attack at the edge of a street market, and yesterday 15 were still receiving hospital treatment including two men who could lose their sight.

Combat 18 was formed in 1992 from the internal security wing of the British National Party. It takes its name from the initials of Adolf Hitler's name, and members have been jailed for violent attacks and racist literature.

Yesterday Deputy Assistant Commissioner Alan Fry, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said the call could be a hoax or an attempt by Combat 18 to court publicity but the claim was being investigated. He said that many possible suspects were still being considered and nothing had been ruled in or out.

He said: "This call should be taken with extreme caution. It is a line of inquiry and it is being taken very seriously but there is no evidence or intelligence at this time which supports the claim." Mr Fry said Combat 18 had been linked to activities in south London including the Eltham area but not to Brixton.

Commander Hugh Orde, in charge of crime operations in south London, said extra police patrols are being put on the Brixton streets to reassure the public.

The bomb was made with two sandwich boxes. One held a timer and explosive made from black powder and the other held the nails. Police have recovered a black Head holdall with fluorescent green writing in which the device was hidden.

Party joker is crowned clown prince of world

By Simon de Bruxelles
South West Correspondent

HE DOES not juggle, ride a unicycle, walk on stilts or throw custard pies, yet Kooky the Clown has won the ultimate accolade in the serious world of buffoonery. The children's entertainer from Wiltshire, who has yet to become a household name outside his village, was yesterday awarded the title International Clown of the Year.

Andy Stevens, 56, impressed judges from the US-based World Clown Association with off-the-cuff humour forged at children's birthday parties across the West Country.

It is the first time that the title has gone outside America, where clowning is no laughing matter. Every major city has an annual "Clown Alley", when local performers get the chance to put on their make-up and costumes and make fools of themselves.

Mr Stevens, a grandfather, has been a regular visitor to clown conventions and clown training camps in America since he first donned the red nose and orange wig more than 30 years ago.

His public appearances in Britain have largely been confined to church fêtes and Devizes carnival, where Kooky made his debut in 1966. That was when Mr Stevens discovered he a gift for impromptu humour.

He said: "I was carrying an umbrella with big round holes in it and everyone wanted to know why. So I told them, 'How else will I know when it starts raining?'"

The jokes have not improved since, which is why Kooky's audiences are mostly aged between three and seven. He arrives at each engagement in his old Volvo estate dressed in full clown costume and heavy make up. Fellow motorists look startled but the children start laughing the moment that the first 18in bulbous red shoe emerges from the car and do not stop until two hours later, when he packs up to go home to Easterton.





Grimaldi, Britain's first clown, and Karl Brenner, its last slapstick artist

Last year Mr Stevens became the first and only clown to be honoured by the Guild of Master Craftsmen, which usually recognises the work of carpenters, farriers and other traditional trades. The latest award is the crowning moment of his career as a clown.

Mr Stevens said: "I am chuffed to bits to win this award. It is the ultimate accolade for any clown. The judges have seen me in action over the years in front of the children in the States and they also know I do a lot of work for clowning. It is fantastic to be the first non-American clown to win the award because clowning is just so much more popular over there. Americans love to go all out on everything — Hallowe'en, Christmas, birthdays. Here in Britain we do suffer a lot more from the old stiff upper lip."

In the clowns' lexicon, Kooky — pronounced Cookie — is an *auguste*. The name comes from Berlin slang for a fool and is part of a tradition that can be traced back through the street entertainers of the Middle Ages to the theatres of ancient Greece and Rome.

Mr Stevens is a self-taught clown, unlike many of his American counterparts, who are trained to perform every trick and to act out well-rehearsed routines.

He said: "I never rehearse because I always ad lib. I had to give a performance at a clown convention in the States and when I went on stage I had absolutely no idea what I was going to do. I ended up giving a performance with one balloon that lasted 20 minutes and had them in stitches."

While some of his American colleagues enjoy performing for children "as long as they don't get too close", for Mr Stevens the rapport with his audience is what make the job worthwhile.

He said: "Entertaining is fun and entertaining children is the best job in the world. I have always taken my clowning seriously but I don't know if it's true that underneath the make-up most clowns are sad. I've certainly never met a rich one.

"The only time I am miserable is when I'm away from clowning. Then I get withdrawal symptoms."

As Mr Stevens's flat fee of £80, plus travel expenses, includes the hour that it takes to transform himself into Kooky with the help of theatrical "slap", he cannot be said to be laughing all the way to the bank.

For the past nine years he has been overseas director of the Clowns of America International, advising the organisation's 300 British members.

He is confident that there is a rosy future for clowning, even though circuses in Britain have been severely curtailed by animal rights campaigners. "There are many more clowns around than when I started out in the 1960s," he said.

"When I began, there was no one you could turn to tell you what to do. I had to make it up as I went along.

"Kids nowadays may be into computer games and videos but they still all love a clown."

Leading article, page 25

Beneath the make-up: British entertainer Andy Stevens, honoured by American clowns

Three centuries of funny business

By Robin Young

CLOWNING has always been an international business, but Britain can claim a fair share of its honours. Even our two most recent Prime Ministers come from circus families: John Major's father was a clowning trapeze artist and *Tony Blair's grandfather* was a circus entertainer.

The founding father of clowning in this country is acknowledged to have been Joseph Grimaldi. Despite his Italian name and family origins, he was born in London in 1779, dying in 1837. His act completed the emergence of the modern clown from the Italian *commedia dell' arte*, which provided Arlecchino (Harlequin) in the 16th century with a grotesque costume that may be partly derived from medieval mystery plays.

***Grimaldi is lovingly* commemorated annually by a congregation of clowns at their own church, Holy Trinity, in Dalston, East London. Grimaldi not only laid the foundations of modern circus clowning but also set the precedent for pantomime dames, a guise in which he was followed by his most accomplished pupil, Dan Leno.**

To many, the greatest of circus clowns was Grock (1880-1959), real name Adrien Wettach, who like many famous clowns was of Swiss nationality. They *include Pio Nock, who died* only last year, still performing at the age of 77. Three generations of Nocks appeared in Mary Chipperfield's Circus at Pleasureland, Southport, for the summer of 1989, which was Pio Nock's last appearance in England.

Other clowns popular in Britain were, like Grimaldi, of Italian origin. They included Luigi Folco, from one of Italy's most celebrated circus families, who became a star of *Billy* Smart's Circus; and Charlie Cairoli, who was a big hit *with the Cirque Medrano in* France (as Carletto) before his first appearance in Britain at the Blackpool Tower in 1939, where he stayed for the remaining 39 years of his career. It was a Briton, Don Saunders, who was hailed as the new Grock in Paris in 1956, while Alby Austin, the son of a Victorian white-face clown, worked with the Russian-born Coco, Little Billy Merchant and Beppo (Johnny Stafford) in Bertram Mills's Circus, dying last year aged 96.

The last surviving *slapstick clown in Britain*, according to Don Stacey, the editor of *World's Fair*, a circus newspaper, is Karl Brenner, who worked with Coco and stars at Chessington World of Adventures. He is German.

Solicitor stole £150,000 from orphans' trust fund

Lawyer loaned stolen money to Dodi Fayed, reports **Michael Horsnell**

A CORRUPT Mayfair solicitor who loaned £163,000 to the late Dodi Fayed from money he had plundered from a trust fund for two young orphans was jailed for three years at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Michael Palmer, 61, whose clients included Prince Michael of Kent and Mohamed Al Fayed, is said to be a former MI6 contact with a wide circle of friends including Lord Howe of Aberavon and Sir Leon Brittan.

Palmer pleaded guilty to 17 charges of conspiracy to defraud, theft, forgery and false accounting involving more than £250,000. He admitted siphoning £150,000 from the children's trust of which he was an executor and £100,000 from the estate of a close friend who had left his estate to a number of Aids charities after his death in 1994.

Palmer made two loans to Dodi Fayed, who died in the car crash in 1997 in which Diana, Princess of Wales was killed. The money was loaned through Allied Stars, a film production company of which Palmer was a director. The first loan of £58,000 was repaid with interest, which Palmer kept and the second, of £105,000 was eventually paid on Mr Fayed's behalf.

There was no suggestion of any impropriety on Mr Fayed's part.

Palmer, of Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, took the money from the estate of David and Jane Elton, of which he was a co-executor. In 1992 Mr Elton, who had lost his job as a director of Ultramar, the oil company when it was taken over by Lasmo, killed his wife and himself, leaving their two young children.

Anthony Hacking, QC, for the prosecution, told the court that Palmer's offences "were committed for personal gain after he got himself into financial difficulties because of his lifestyle and because his firm wasn't doing well".

Palmer, the court was told, had debts of up to £478,000, on which he was having to make repayments of £25,000 a year.

The Elton estate administered funds of more than £2 million that had been left to the children, one of whom counted Palmer as a godfather. Mr Hacking said that the beneficiaries and co-executor of the estate were "kept in the dark" about the loans, but that some of the stolen money had been repaid by Palmer and his former firm, Palmer Cowen.

The court was told that, with some of the money he stole from the Elton children, Palmer made loans to Jamshid Hashemi Naini, a Conservative Party donor and international conman, who was jailed in December for 38 months after pleading guilty to fraud charges totalling £3 million.

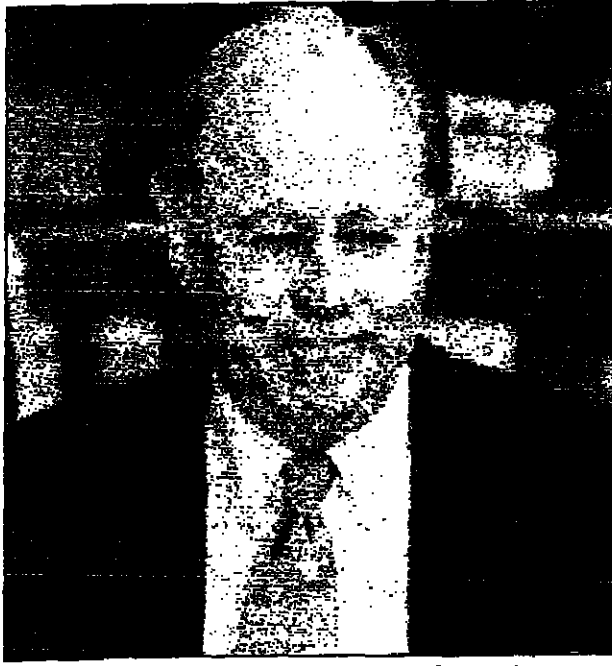
As Hashemi's lawyer and director of some of the Iranian's companies, Palmer is said to have found himself submerged in the world of espionage, liaising with MI6 while Hashemi spied for Britain under cover of arranging weapons deals with Tehran.

The Serious Fraud Office mounted an investigation into the activities of both men during the summer of 1996. Palmer had been on bail, and Sir Gordon Reece, the former adviser to Baroness Thatcher, stood surety.

The court was told that at one stage Palmer has resorted to forgery to conceal his activities and told lies on behalf of a close friend, Phillipe Berthelon, who wanted to obtain a £120,000 mortgage on a flat in West London. Mr Hacking said that Palmer falsely declared M Berthelon to be earning £35,000 a year from employment with a company of which Palmer was a director.

Palmer secretly paid his M Berthelon £141,000 cash from the Elton estate, which was followed by a further £42,000 and other monies.

Mr Hacking told the court that Palmer had also stolen money from the estate of a friend, Geoffrey Roberts, who died in 1994, leaving Palmer, who was a trustee, £20,000 in his will. Mr Roberts, the court was told, also had £230,000 in a Swiss bank account known as the "birthday account". From that money he had wanted large bequests to go to three Aids charities, but Palmer used his position to siphon off the money. The charities never received a penny.



Michael Palmer: he stole a total of £250,000

Mr Justice Collins yesterday told Palmer: "It is always a tragedy to see someone like you in the dock having admitted serious dishonesty."

Many of Palmer's friends and clients had written to the court saying that they were astonished by his actions, which they described as out of character. Palmer said that he had been greatly affected by the debilitating illness and death of M Berthelon, and wept as details were read to the court.

However, Mr Justice Collins said that Palmer's dishonesty had predated his friend's death. "Your business was in difficulties and not only did you have a business which needed shoring up but also you had a lifestyle which you wanted to maintain and I am sure that is how the dishonesty arose," he said.

The court was told that Palmer, who shared his home with M Berthelon for several years until the Frenchman's death, was a lover of fine wine and had diverted 18 cases worth £6,000 from the estate of Mr Roberts's estate to his own cellar at his Gloucestershire farmhouse.

Palmer, who was also formerly the owner of a luxurious home in Central London, considered himself to be a connoisseur of art. But he enjoyed his status mostly as a pillar of the community, serving as a member of his parochial church council in Gloucestershire.

He was a friend of Michael Marshall, the Assistant Bishop of London, who said that he was "devastated" by the disclosure of Palmer's dishonesty. The solicitor also enjoyed his role as chairman of the Peckham Settlement, a southeast London charity for the poor.

The judge declined to make compensation and confiscation orders after being told that a large amount of money had been repaid and that the rest was likely to be repaid within three months.

Nato's modern warfare secrets are revealed

Michael Evans reports on the blow-by-blow account of the attack on the refugee convoy

NATO has made up for five days of confusion and obfuscation by providing what must be the most detailed explanation ever given of how an air raid in a modern battlefield environment is carried out.

Admitting for the first time that there were two separate airstrikes on April 14, and not the single laser-guided bomb claimed by Nato last week, Brigadier-General Daniel Leaf, commander of the air wing at Aviano air base in Italy, made it clear that the attacks on two targets northwest and southeast of the Kosovo town of Dakovica, occurred only after an extraordinary series of checks and counter-checks, and that a total of 13 manned and one unmanned aircraft were involved.

The complexity of the operation makes it more difficult to understand why Nato did not come clean on the day of the bombing. Although there were many details needing to be clarified, Aviano airbase would have known immediately that there had been a multiple sortie involved that morning.

Nato had a specially converted airborne command and control aircraft operating in the region which had been responsible for co-ordinating the airstrikes. This Hercules EC130 (ABCCC) was fully in the picture.

It had received all the information, issued orders to incoming bombers, and finally approved the decision to call off the strikes, once it had been finally confirmed that the targets being hit were not exclusively military.

While a full investigation was clearly needed — and General Leaf said he had had to interview every pilot — the decision to issue an interim statement, effectively owning up to only one hit and one target, caused confusion because it did not answer any of the obvious questions.

There remain a number of unanswered questions, but after General Leaf's comprehensive account of what happened on April 14, the focus of attention can now switch to the Serbs. Were Serb aircraft involved in strafing the convoy to make the Nato bombing look worse than it was?

Did the Serbs drop grenades from helicopters, as suggested by the American general, or hit the convoy with cluster bombs?

It seems likely that in the 24 hours the Serbs had to create a different scenario before the Western journalists arrived on a guided tour, they probably removed all evidence of military vehicles from the scene, especially those damaged or destroyed by the Nato bombing.

The problem for Nato is that after initially making the mistake of trying to limit the public relations damage by accepting responsibility for only one attack, the Serbs will now be in a stronger position to exploit the alliance U-turn.

Nevertheless, a number of key facts emerged from yesterday's briefing, the most important of which was that the Nato aircraft operating as "forward air controllers" became convinced that they had struck lucky and had come across a major Serb military convoy. Their belief was backed up by the Hercules airborne command aircraft.

The most telling conversation was between the EC130 (ABCCC) and the American pilot of the F16 with the call sign Bear 31.

ABCCC: "Roger, we've just received word that it is a VJ (Yugoslav Army) convoy. Now copy."

Bear 31: "Great, give me all your players now. Saab, are you still airborne. (Saab was the call sign for two French Jaguars)."

ABCCC: "I want as many fighters as I can get now to that point."

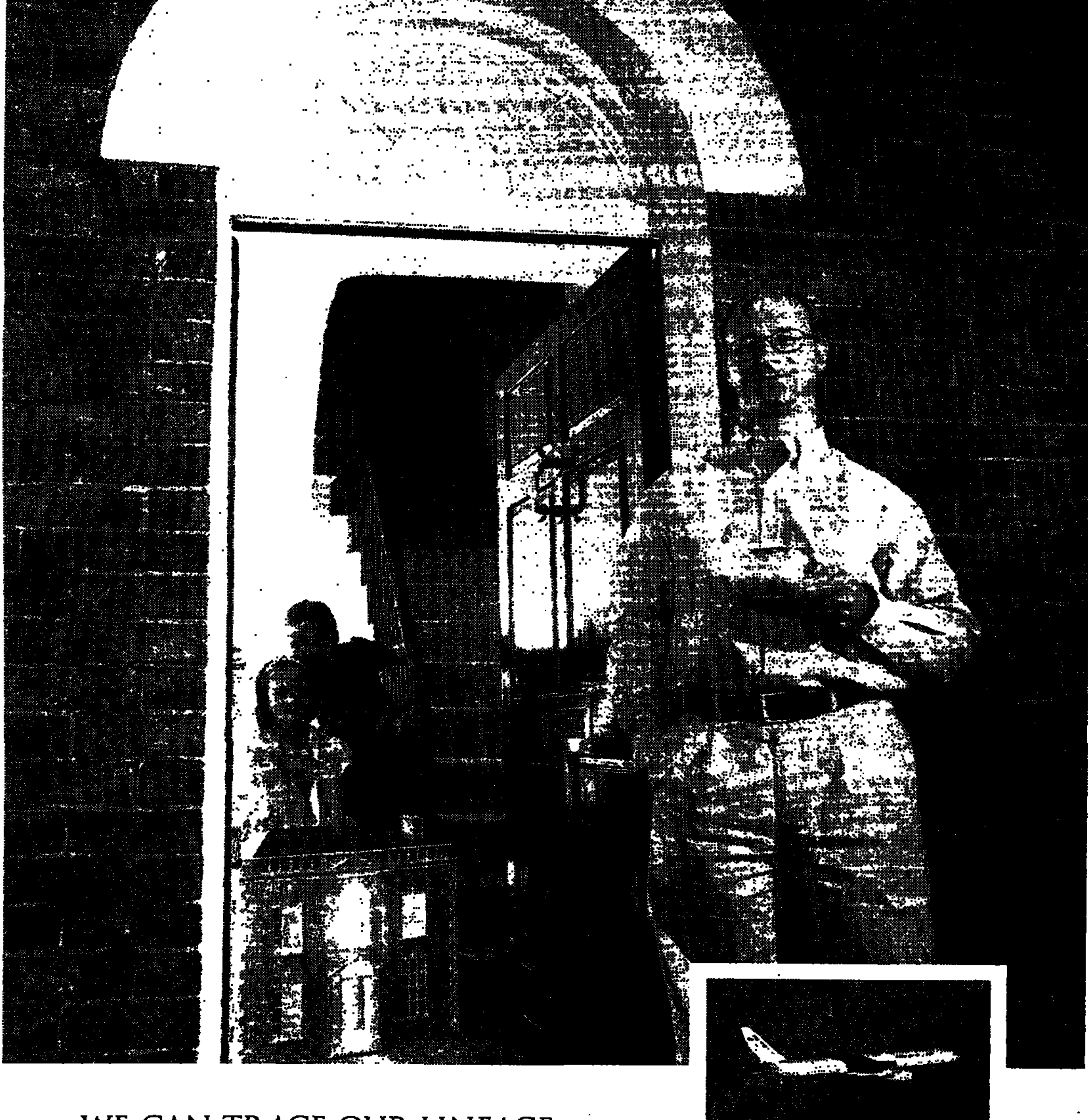
The intelligence information had come principally from pictures taken by an American Predator unmanned drone, whose photographs had been relayed to the Hercules, showing a 100-vehicle convoy, apparently spaced out in the manner of a military column. There was no sense of a ragged column of refugee vehicles. Perhaps this was a deliberate ploy by the Serbs to draw fire. It succeeded.

Over a period of 39 minutes, nine Nato aircraft were sent in to attack the convoy, although not all the planes, the Jaguars among them, succeeded in dropping their laser-guided bombs. Seven bombs were dropped.

It was not until two US A10s, flying more slowly and at lower altitude, arrived on the scene, that the first warnings came that civilian vehicles were in the convoy. The A10 crews, looking through high-powered binoculars, issued a warning that this was not, after all, the target the whole of Nato had been waiting for — *an exclusively military column driving down the road.*



Brigadier-General Daniel Leaf at yesterday's briefing at Nato headquarters in Brussels demonstrates the size of a control screen on an F16 plane



Serbs' Nato tape is 'pure Hollywood'

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

MILITARY analysts yesterday ridiculed what they called "Top Gun", tapes played on Serbian state television that were said to be intercepted radio messages between Nato pilots in Kosovo and airborne command centres on Awacs surveillance planes.

Television and newspapers gave prominence to the crackly recordings, one of which featured an F16 pilot, uncertain of whether he was looking at refugees or military vehicles, being told to attack nonetheless, and another that captured a Nato pilot's mayday.

Experts with the Jane's Defence organisation said it was plausible that the Yugoslav Army had the technology to listen to the cockpit conversations of Nato pilots. But after hearing details of the two tapes they dismissed them.

Nick Cook, aviation editor of *Jane's Defence Weekly*, described the longer recording on Serbian television, purportedly of a hesitant F16 pilot involved in last week's disastrous Nato attack on a refugee convoy in southern Kosovo, as "pure Top Gun, borrowed straight from Hollywood".

The transcript of the tapes was published in the pro-Milosevic paper, *Vecernje Novosti*, which like most Serbian media is seeking to enbarrass Nato in this, the alliance's 50th anniversary week.

In a city feasting on whispers and an ever more colourful rumour mill, it is widely believed that two captured Nato pilots will be paraded on Friday, Nato's birthday.

In *Vecernje Novosti's* account, the F16 flying over the Dakovica area in southern Kosovo is called "Charlie Bravo", and its pilot is receiving orders from an Awacs called "mother" flying high overhead.

Paul Beaver, the Jane's Defence spokesman, said the tape was a "nice try", but that "even by American standards it is too theatrical". A pilot himself, he said cockpit messages were more sophisticated, and that the call sign system "was more discreet than that".

With equal scepticism, he had listened to a copy of Serbian state television's other F16 conversation, in which the pilot cries excitedly "eject, eject, eject" after his plane has apparently been hit.

Mr Cook said he had heard recordings of pilots' conversations in Bosnia, which were nothing like the Serbian television extracts. He also doubted that the electronic surveillance equipment used to pick up the conversations would have survived this long into the airstrike campaign. "I imagine that sort of infrastructure would be high on Nato's list of targets."

Miroslav Lazanski, defence correspondent with *Vecernje Novosti*, insisted that he believed the tapes had been provided by reliable military sources. "We've got very good electronic warfare units," he said, "but the service is very secret." He said the Yugoslav Army used listening devices made by Britain's Marconi, Thomson of France, and Siemens of Germany. Most of it, he admitted, was at least eight years old.

Mr Lazanski said he believed that mobile electronic warfare units had "locked on to an F16 channel", possibly with the help of the Yugoslav Army's own surveillance aircraft. Again, Mr Cook had his doubts. "This aircraft would have been spotted instantly by Awacs and dispatched as quickly as possible," he said.

'WHAT SHOULD I DESTROY? TRACTORS?'

"Good day. I am in a position 80. No movement underneath. Please information on red MiGs," says Charlie Bravo.

"Hello Charlie Bravo. Mother here. Patrol towards northwest direction Prizren-Dakovica. There are no red MiGs in the air."

"Okay. I am going to 3,000 feet."

"Mother to Charlie Bravo. You get reinforcements in ten minutes. There will be something interesting south of Dakovica."

"Charlie Bravo to Mother. I am coming out of the clouds, still nothing in sight."

"Mother to Charlie Bravo. Continue to the north, course 280."

"Charlie Bravo to Mother. I am keeping 3,000 feet. Under me columns of cars, some kind of tractors. What is it? Requesting instructions."

"Mother to Charlie Bravo. Do you see tanks? Repeat, where are the tanks?"

"Charlie Bravo to Mother. I see tractors. I suppose the Reds did not camouflage tanks as tractors."

"Mother to Charlie Bravo. What kind of strange convoy is this? What, civilians? Damn, this is all the Serbs' doing. Destroy the target."

"Charlie Bravo to Mother. What should I destroy? Tractors? Ordinary cars? Repeat, I do not see any tanks. Request additional instructions."

"Mother to Charlie Bravo. This is a military target, a completely legitimate military target. Destroy the target, repeat, destroy the target."

"Charlie Bravo to Mother. Understand. Roger. Launching."

Buoyant KLA captures Russian 'mercenary'

FROM SAM KILEY IN KUKES

THE Kosovo Liberation Army, once considered an undisciplined, ragtag bunch, has begun to score battlefield successes, capturing enemy soldiers that yesterday included a Russian "mercenary".

Rebel commanders based in Kukes, boosted by the thousands of recruits who have been drawn to the KLA training camp near the town, said that they intended to "go on the offensive" over the next 72 hours in the west of Kosovo.

Between 400 and 600 KLA soldiers recently infiltrated western Kosovo and are expected to take advantage of increased of Nato air bombardments to attack Serb positions on the ground.

They also hope that US Apache tank-busting helicopters, which are expected to enter the fray later this week, will give them valuable airstrike capabilities against tanks and armoured vehicles.

"The aim is that we will flush them out, and the yanks will blow them up," said a KLA commander yesterday.

Experienced units, many made up of former members of the Federal Yugoslav Army, have stepped up raids on Serb positions. From Tropoje, in northern Albania, they have cleared Serbs from a number of villages inside Kosovo.

Yesterday Luzim Bakalli, the KLA spokesman in Albania's capital, Tirana, said that three soldiers, including a Russian, who were captured last week would be handed over to Nato officials in the next few days.

The Russian, described as a mercenary, was wearing Yugoslav Army fatigues and serving as an officer. The KLA has not suggested that the pro-Serb Russian Government had sanctioned the officer's role in Kosovo.

The prisoners were captured in Junik, the scene of fierce fighting last week and apparently came from the same unit of a battalion of about 700 men that was attacked by the KLA. They have been taken into Albanian territory and will be handed over in Tirana.

There have been some indications that while the morale of the KLA has been climbing, some members of the Yugoslav Army appear to be uncomfortable with the killings and deportations that they have been ordered to oversee.

Some refugees entering Albania have said that officers in the regular army had reprimanded their men for abusing the displaced villagers.

Film shows Nato bombing civilians

Explanation of strike on convoy raises serious questions about ability to identify targets, writes Charles Bremner in Brussels

NATO admitted yesterday that its warplanes bombed the convoy in Kosovo last Wednesday in which the Serbs claimed there were over 60 civilian casualties.

It conceded that civilians were apparently killed in the 50-minute pounding with seven laser-guided bombs, but insisted that the pilots believed they were hitting military vehicles.

In a graphic account that included videos of the bombing, the US Air Force brigadier-general in charge of the operation cleared up the mystery over Nato's earlier versions of the incidents. But his explanation raised serious questions over Nato's ability to identify targets.

Nine 500-lb laser-guided bombs had been dropped by F16 fighters on groups of vehicles in two separate areas of southwestern Kosovo, both of which had been shown on Serbian television, said Brigadier Dan Leaf. "It is possible there were civilian casualties at both locations. This is a very complicated scenario and we will never be able to establish all the exact details.

"We cannot prove or disprove any error," said the brigadier, who commands allied air operations out of Aviano air base in Italy and led the investigation into the incidents. "The world knows that battle of this kind is a complex dynamic environment. We do not claim to be perfect."

The main disclosure from the brigadier, who arrived at Nato headquarters in his olive-green flying suit, was confirmation that allied aircraft had attacked a big moving convoy southeast of Dakovica.

This was the site reported by Kosovo-Albanian survivors, and where Serb officials showed scenes of carnage to Western journalists last week.

Nato officials initially regretted causing civilian deaths there, but then backtracked, offering until yesterday only an account of the other strike, on three vehicles northwest of Dakovica.

Brigadier Leaf said that several planes had pounded the long convoy after identifying its lead 20 vehicles as military. The strikes were called off only after doubts arose over the make-up of the convoy and observer aircraft spotted civilian vehicles.

He said he knew of reports that a British Harrier pilot tried to alert the attackers to the presence of civilians, but said the British aircraft had not been in radio communication with jets involved in the strikes.

The brigadier said he could not explain the bodies shown to the media at the scene, and suggested that Serb forces may have machine-gunned, bombed or mortared the refugees in the convoy.

He emphasised the difficulties of identifying vehicles from relatively high altitude and showed an example of the 4½ inch by 4½ inch cockpit video display that pilots use to track targets from several miles away.

He offered a minute-by-minute account of the midday missions that involved eight American F16 fighter-bombers, two French Jaguars and a pair of American A10 ground attack planes, used for observation.

In the first strike, an F16 hit one of three vehicles parked alongside buildings that were being set on fire by Serb forces. The pilot had witnessed "graphic and horrifying" sights of ethnic cleansing in action, said the Brigadier.

"It was the association of the vehicle with the house burnings that made it a legitimate target." This was the attack carried out by the pilot whose account was given to the media last week, he added.

The video also showed a second strike hitting vehicles in a nearby yard. The brigadier showed Serb television film of the site that showed mangled tractors alongside the same building. It was clear that "tractor-type vehicles" had been hit, he said. "We struck a valid military target."

THE SITE OF THE TWO ATTACKS

FIRST ATTACK
11.58am
C-shaped building hit by bomb

FIRST ATTACK
11.10am
Small convoy hit by bomb

SECOND ATTACK
12.19pm
Large convoy hit by 7 bombs

Three miles

Meja

Dakovica

THE PLANES INVOLVED

FIRST ATTACK

Two F16s
(Call sign Bear 21)

Two F16s
(Call sign Bear 42)

SECOND ATTACK

Two F16s
(Call sign Bear 42)

Two F16s
(Call sign Bear 41/2)

Two F16s
(Call sign Bear 31/2)

Two F16s
(Call sign Chisel 31/2)

Two Jaguars
(Call sign Saab 51/2)
No bombs dropped

Two A10s
(Call sign Cub)
No bombs dropped

One Hercules EC130
(ABCCC)
no bombs dropped

THE FIRST ATTACK

1. 10.30 GMT: Bear 21, forward air controller, searching for targets. Saw vehicles involved in torching of building

2. 11.10: Attacks with single laser-guided 500lb bomb

3. 11.48: In same area, Bear 42 attacks suspected military vehicles in compound

THE TIMETABLE OF ATTACKS

THE FIRST ATTACK

10.30 — Bear 21 on station

Bear 21 monitors burning houses

11.00 — Bear 21 attacks vehicles participating in burning houses

11.30 — Image from Predator unmanned drone received

Bear 42 attacks vehicles near Bear 21's strike

THE SECOND ATTACK

12.00 — Bear 31 locates large convoy east-south-east of Dakovica

ABCCC decides it is a Serbian convoy

First attack on large convoy

12.30 — Anti-aircraft fire near large convoy

Last attack on large convoy

13.00 — A10s asked to confirm identity of convoy

Attacks suspended

Attacks finally terminated

13.30

The account of the attack 20 minutes later on the moving convoy, several kilometres long, was less clear. "This is the one we have been referring to all along, and it was a confused picture," he said.

The convoy was spotted by "Bear 31", the codename for a flight of two F16s which had taken part in the earlier strike. "The 20 vehicles were uniform in shape and colour. They were maintaining steady spacing and pace, characteristic of military movement."

The command-and-control aircraft, circling high above the area, told the pilots: "We have just received word that this is a VJ [Yugoslav Army] convoy." Brigadier Leaf said the command aircraft had partly based its conclusion on intelligence information. The lead pilot of Bear 31 replied: "Great, give me all your players . . . I want as many fighters as I can get now." Other aircraft were called in.

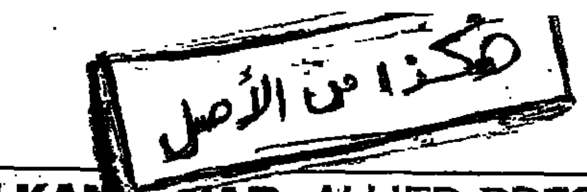
The video showed a first bomb missing the lead vehicle which, on the large screen at Nato headquarters, appeared to bave an open trailer behind it. The second vehicle veered off the road. Further giant blasts destroyed other vehicles. "Viewed in comfort", the brigadier said, "it is apparently possible that the vehicles are tractor-type vehicles but from attack altitude, to the naked eye, they appeared to be military vehicles."

During the attack, the aircraft came under fire from Serb anti-aircraft cannon. The shells were exploding at 13,000 feet, below the aircraft.

After the 20-minute assault, the airborne controllers radioed doubts about the type of convoy, saying: "Serbian forces do not often travel in convoys as large as this."

The A10s were sent in to take a closer look with better optical equipment. Still flying high, they reported that "definitely military vehicles were there, but multi-coloured and possible civilian vehicles were present," said Brigadier Leaf.

He refused to say that Nato was responsible for the civilian dead. "There is the possibility that civilian-type vehicles were struck and there may have been civil personnel harmed. "We cannot determine that clearly."



Albright isolated on call for oil blockade

By Michael Binyon and Charles Bremner

AMERICA and its Nato allies appeared yesterday to be heading for a clash over Washington's call for a naval blockade to cut off Yugoslavia's oil supplies.

The Americans are pressing hard for a total embargo, including a possible blockade of Montenegrin ports. But Britain said that this would not be practical or legal because it would not gain United Nations or European Union support. France, which also opposes a blockade, said yesterday that it wanted to block oil supplies by diplomatic means.

Nato reckons that its airstrikes have destroyed 70 per cent of Serbia's oil stocks. Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, said at the weekend that America was "taking all kinds of steps to limit the ability of outside powers to deliver oil". She made clear that America would have no qualms in stopping and searching ships heading towards Yugoslavia.

Nato is divided on the issue, however. The sticking point is a lack of authority to close off oil supplies since an earlier UN oil embargo against Belgrade was eased after the end of the Bosnian conflict in 1995. When Nato ambassadors broached the issue last week, the French, Italian and Greek envoys said a blockade would raise legal problems. "We are worried it could widen the conflict," said one French official.

Jamie Shea, the Nato spokesman, noted that oil was the essential fuel needed to run a war, and called on all countries not to take any action to prolong the conflict.

Yugoslavia receives most of its fuel from Russia and Iraq, mostly overland. Croatia has turned off its oil pipeline, but supplies continue to flow from Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania and other surrounding countries.



PETER DEJONG

Kosovan refugees queue for food at the Nato-run camp at Stenkovec, near Skopje in Macedonia yesterday. Few refugees have crossed the border in the past few days

Germans try to halt KLA cash

Banks are ignoring a warning from a watchdog and allowing funds to reach guerrillas, writes **Roger Boyes** from Bonn

GERMANY'S main credit watchdog is calling on all commercial banks to block accounts used by Kosovo Albanians to finance the activities of the Kosovo Liberation Army.

A document obtained by *The Times* carries a warning by the Federal Credit Supervisory Agency that Kosovo Albanians are laundering illegally sourced cash through German bank accounts some of which benefit the guerrillas.

But inquiries yesterday showed that bank managers were allowing suspect money to flow southwards to help the war against the Serbs. The small sum paid by *The Times* yesterday into the account of the "Homeland is Calling" fund — which should have been blocked since February — was accepted without demur by the bank. The account, which channels money to the Kosovo struggle, is active despite the determined efforts of government bank controllers to close it.

The quiet acceptance of the fund fits into a more general pattern of sympathy for the Kosovo Liberation Army, allowing the guerrillas to draw on the incomes of 300,000 Kosovans in Germany to stock up on funds and recruit new members. It is illegal to recruit for a foreign army on German soil yet discotheques and clubs are being used to sign up Kosovo volunteers. Many of the Kosovo Albanians are registered asylum-seekers, and so bound by law to live in a specified part of Germany — not to travel in bus convoys to the Balkan front line as at least 5,000 volunteers have already done. Kosovans who have been accepted for asylum for Germany are not technically allowed to return to Kosovo which is seen as their place of persecution.

The Austrian authorities are tougher than the Germans. They have been sending KLA recruits back to Germany and banning them from Austria for three years.

Regional interior ministers in Germany see no major problem. Bavaria's Interior Minister, Günther Beckstein, has been urging colleagues to "allow Kosovo Albanians to return to fight for their homeland". When the Austrians search the buses they turn up uniforms and bulletproof vests — but guns are usually handed out only when the Bari ferry heads for Albania.

There seems to be a divide in the German establishment between politicians — who see the KLA as fulfilling a useful function — and drug squad officials, the intelligence services and anti-money laundering agencies who view the guerrilla army as a collection of family clans with links to the clans who run the heroin trade in Western Europe. The Federal Credit Supervisory Agency believes that German banks, having been warned weeks ago, are breaking the law in keeping open the most sensitive of Kosovo Albanian accounts.

The warning faxed to the Association of German Banks by the agency says that 250 travel agencies and associations have been investigated and that the agency found clear evidence of money-laundering. Banks are breaking the law in two ways. First, by turning a blind eye to the laundering: large sums are being paid into the accounts of fake travel agencies and the Democratic Association of Albanians. The money is then withdrawn and carried to Switzerland for distribution to Kosovan groups including the KLA.

Arms export laws are also being broken: according to the agency, funds supposedly earmarked for charity are going towards "fulfilling the military needs" of the KLA.

US puts death toll of ethnic Albanians at 100,000

From Damian Whitworth in Washington

THE Clinton Administration believes Nato has drastically underestimated the number of ethnic Albanians slaughtered by Serbs and that the true figure could be more than 100,000.

David Scheffer, the United States ambassador at large for war crimes issues, said that huge numbers of Albanian men were missing after being separated from their wives and children.

"You're actually looking at the possibility of tens of thousands of Kosovans who not only are at risk, but who may actually have perished by this stage," he said. "We have upwards of about 100,000 men that we cannot account for. We have no idea where those men are now."

Nato has estimated that 3,200 ethnic Albanians have died as Serb forces drove through Kosovo evicting them from their homes.

"That is a very low estimate," said Mr Scheffer who has based his own estimate on refugee reports and other sources.

He cited surveillance photographs that showed what appeared to be freshly dug mass graves. He called the pictures evidence of "a classic example of ethnic cleansing. The Serbs came in, torched the town and then proceeded with massacres of individual groups".

Mr Scheffer said President Milosevic was "certainly a prime target for investigation" as a war criminal and had been informed of that in a letter from prosecutor Louise Arbour of the UN War Crimes Tribunal in The Netherlands.

President Clinton, meanwhile, had a 40 minute telephone discussion with President Yeltsin yesterday in which he was given an assurance that Russia would not become militarily involved in the conflict in the Balkans.

BALKANS WAR: THE COMMONS DEBATE

Don't shoot messenger as the mood darkens

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

Bad news can arrive by unlikely messenger. Bad news for Nato arrived yesterday in the rounded and familiar form of Gwyneth Dunwoody (Lab, Crewe & Nantwich). Mrs Dunwoody is developing doubts about the war.

So what? That a minority of government backbenchers are unhappy about Nato policy is hardly news. Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow), Tony Benn (Chesterfield), George Galloway (Glasgow Hillhead), Alice Mahon (Halifax) ... the worries of a dozen are known. In any Commons vote they would be overwhelmed by the Labour backbenchers who support their Leader. One more name — and Mrs Dunwoody's is not famous — barely alters the arithmetic.

But Mrs Dunwoody is different. Until yesterday, almost every Labour member of the Kosovo Awkward Squad was a maverick, loner or leftie. It is not to deny the expertise of a Dalyell (or passion of a Benn) to remark that neither is "mainstream". No mainstream government backbenchers oppose the war.

That remains true — just. Dunwoody, 68, is not sufficiently "new" Labour, and too outspoken, to be mainstream. But she is loyal. She is neither obsessive, quirky, nor anti-militarist. She is not on the Left. She has a commonsense quality. She cares little for our approval and is contemptuous of "spin", but she is not a rogue backbencher as Galloway or Benn are. And she can be quite a bruiser.

Yesterday her tone was anything but bruising. It was almost plaintive. Nervously she told her own side — ignoring the Opposition — that she now felt "some unease" about the war. She did not know how to express this, she said: she did not want to undermine our troops. But it was "wrong to ignore" problems. Her spoken thoughts will be the unspoken thoughts of others.

In an eyebrow-raising "I breakfasted with Tito" passage, she surprised MPs too young to remember she is the daughter of a postwar General Secretary of the Labour Party, she described a talk with Marshal Tito in Yugoslavia when she was 20, some 40 years ago. She learned of the guts and resourcefulness of the Serbs. Lacking weapons, she said, they put dinner plates in the path of tanks, hid, waited for the puzzled invaders to dismount to inspect them, then killed them. What if the air campaign fails? She would find it "hard to support" a land invasion. Nato was right to oppose Milosevic, but "I have some doubts ..." Intentions were good, but she would hesitate before "committing other women's sons to fight the wrong way, on the wrong terms, at the wrong time". From the sketchwriter's seat it has been fascinating to observe the ebb and flow of Commons sentiment on this war. Weeks ago the House began in angry mood, then, with the start of the bombing, grew shaky. By last week, when Tony Blair addressed MPs in sombre terms, a grim but more determined mood prevailed.

But yesterday the tone seemed distracted. The government benches were never full. Robin Cook's now familiar denunciations of Milosevic failed to rouse MPs — and almost every interruption was hostile or ambiguous. Even Cook's supporters, the vast majority on both sides, were impatient for clarity and reassurance. Cheers were thin.

The mood, said Cook's Shadow, Michael Howard, in an impressive Grand Inquisition of a speech, "has darkened". Mrs Dunwoody's worried face and voice showed it.



PAWEL KOPCZYNSKI/REUTERS

An ethnic Albanian boy in Malina, a village on the Macedonian border to which 3,000 refugees have fled

We could not let fascism rise again

Foreign Secretary says protectorate should be set up in Kosovo, report **James Landale** and **Mark Inglefield**

NATO could not tolerate the rebirth of fascism in Europe 50 years after it was defeated, Robin Cook said yesterday as he sought to defend the alliance's airstrikes in the former Yugoslavia.

The Foreign Secretary said that Nato would have been complicit in the evils being visited upon the Kosovan Albanians if it had failed to act.

Opening the second full Commons debate since the bombing began on March 24, Mr Cook said that a toughening of attitude was needed because of the "sheer scale of the brutality directed from Belgrade against the Kosovar Albanians".

He added: "It is implausible that the refugees will be willing to return while those who have persecuted them remain in occupation in Kosovo."

A much more "hands on" approach from the international community would be needed, he added. He set out a plan for a protectorate under which the administration of Kosovo would be put in the hands of bodies including the United Nations, the European Union and the Organisation for Cooperation and Security in Europe. Britain wants it to be set up by a UN Security Council resolution.

The administration would be backed by a Nato-led force of some 30,000 men and in the Commons Mr Cook called on Russia to take part in it.

The Government secured general backing from MPs for its war stance but the mood was even more sombre and questioning of the ultimate outcome than before.

Mr Cook said: "In the past weeks we have again borne witness to forced deportation by train, to thousands of refugees starving in squalid huddles, to pathetic masses shorn of their homes and their papers for no reason but their ethnic identity.

"Had we taken no action we would have been complicit in those evils."

He added: "Nato was born out of the defeat of fascism. Fifty years later we cannot tolerate the rebirth of fascism in our continent. That is why our servicemen are in action over Kosovo. And that is why this House must support them in that action until we have reversed the ethnic cleansing and enabled the people of Kosovo to return to their homes in safety."

Mr Cook said that today he will promise Britain's full cooperation with the International War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague to bring those who have "stained Kosovo with ethnic cleansing and genocide" to trial.

He said he would hand over to Judge Louise Arbour, the Chief Prosecutor, a dossier of material of the "multiple atrocities" which have taken place over the last three weeks, including names of police and army commanders and photographs of possible mass graves.

> 'Had we taken no action we would be complicit in these evils'

Mr Cook outlined Britain's aid contribution so far: £20 million on a national basis and £27 million via the European Union. He said the airstrikes were having a "real impact" on President Milosevic's war machine.

Tony Benn (Lab, Chesterfield), who opposes airstrikes, criticised the Government for refusing to allow MPs to vote on the military action. He accused ministers of turning Commons debates on the war into "a press conference where we listen to ministers but have no opportunity to register our views or votes".

Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, voiced the Tory party's support for the air campaign. "We continue to believe that it was right to take action against the regime which has inflicted so much terror on its citizens," he said.

But he said MPs must face the reality that Nato has not yet achieved its initial objective of halting the ethnic cleansing.

"We must face facts," he said. "Nato's primary objectives of preventing a humanitarian disaster has not been achieved. That must be the starting point for any honest analysis of how we should precede."

Mr Howard asked the Government to clarify a series of points, particularly the arguments being used over the possiblity of the deployment of ground forces. Would any ground force be under the auspices of Nato? What did the Government mean by a "permissive environment"? Was the removal of President Milosevic now an explicit Nato objective?

He said: "We remain of the view that it was right of Nato to intervene. But we must ensure that having embarked on this action, we now see it through."

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrats' Foreign Affairs spokesman, said there were both "moral and pragmatic" reasons for stopping Serbia's "flagrant abuse of humanitarian standards".

But he criticised the Government for so firmly ruling out the possibility of ground forces.

"It was wrong for Nato to rule out the option of ground forces in such an apparently unequivocal way because it told the Milosevic regime to exclude from their calculations an option which it would have found discomforting. Milosevic should have been left in confusion and doubt about Nato's intentions." He added: "I do believe the threat and indeed the use of ground forces will be an essential component

continued on facing page

LABOUR VETERAN'S CALL TO ARMS

John Morris, the Attorney-General, emerged yesterday as one of the unlikely but central players in the wartime chain of command between ministers and defence chiefs (Roland Watson writes). Mr Morris, a survivor not just of the last Labour Government but a ministerial veteran of Harold Wilson's first administration, is required to authorise the RAF's bombing targets. The 67-year-old MP for Aberavon examines proposed targets with Tony Blair, Robin Cook and George Robertson before the jets are given the all-clear.

Mr Morris attends meetings of the Defence and Overseas Cabinet Committee, known as DOP. His role is to ensure that the targets conform to international conventions seeking to protect civilians and parts of the civic infrastructure such as hospitals. He also has to decide whether roads, bridges and factories are critical to Serb oppression in Kosovo and therefore legitimate targets. Mr Morris played a similar role in the bombing raids on Iraq.

The disclosure came as Downing Street denied reports that defence chiefs were being frustrated by limits imposed by politicians. The Prime Minister's official spokesman described as "complete nonsense" reports that Mr Blair personally selected targets.



Pupils are asked to imagine suffering

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of schools are being asked to observe a minute's silence next week during assembly in an attempt to help children to understand the horror of war.

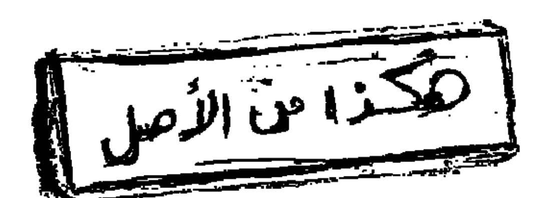
The initiative, organised by the charity Save the Children, has the aim of helping youngsters to make sense of the disturbing images of human suffering from Kosovo and other conflicts around the world.

Pupils at secondary schools participating in the scheme will be asked to meditate upon a specially prepared text written from the perspective of a child caught up in war. It says: "I am afraid, I am hungry, I want my mother, I am small, dirty and insignificant, why else would I have been left?"

Children at primary schools will be asked to reflect on the things they enjoy doing most and then imagine what life would be like without them.

The scheme will be backed by a radio advertising campaign based around a rewritten version of a children's nursery rhyme: "*Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water/Jack was snatched by rebel troops and Jill raped shortly after.*"

Andrew Hutchinson, the charity's head of education, said it was important to help children to understand war in a way that did not distress them. The advent of 24-hour television news meant that it was a subject that few parents felt they could now avoid.



let fascism be reborn, says Cook

continued from facing page

in the achievement of any settlement. I think public opinion has been much more robust on this topic than governments have estimated."

Mr Campbell voiced his support for Mr Benn's demand for a Commons vote on the conflict. He also criticised Downing Street for "rubbishing" BBC foreign correspondents in Belgrade.

"Mr John Simpson is not a candidate for sainthood but it seems to me to portray a conspicuous lack of confidence in the justice of the cause to be so ultra-sensitive to his broadcasts from Belgrade," he said. "I believe firmly that we should let people make their own judgments."

Gwyneth Dunwoody (Lab, Crewe and Nantwich) expressed the unease which some MPs felt towards the air campaign even though they accepted the essential moral justice of the military action.

She said: "Those of us who commit other women's sons to fight on our behalf must be very clear that we are not doing it in the wrong way, in thewrong terms and at the wrong time. I do hope that we will be given the opportunity, if any such thing is even contemplated, to express the views of many of the people of the UK, who knowing the savagery, knowing the viciousness with which politics is frequently progressed within the Balkan states, nevertheless want to know that we are not committing our people to a long term and quite frightening adventure that may not in the final analysis be in the interests of our people."

Nicholas Soames (C, Mid Sussex), a former Defence Minister, gave warning that the use of ground troops was inevitable. But he added that modern world leaders who had not experienced the Second World War should realise airstrikes were often not enough. "The lesson of this is that limited actions get limited results," he said.

Bruce George (Lab, Walsall South), chairman of the Defence Select Committee, said that Nato was fighting not only in the air, but also on the airwaves and emphasised the importance of a better Nato media campaign. He said both the military and civilians should "sing from the same song sheet".

He also criticised those expressing concerns about the costs of the campaign. "The morality of the cause is such that we should not apply accountants' principles four weeks into a conflict," he said.

Alan Clark (C, Kensington and Chelsea), a former Defence Minister, said: "This

> 'The lesson of this is that limited actions get limited results'

war is clumsy, wasteful and shambolic. I can see neither clearly defined objectives or any measurable way of attaining them. The Prime Minister seems to be making things up as he goes along."

Mr Clark said he was satisfied that the RAF had not been to blame for recent airstrikes which had caused civilian casualties — but Americans were "another case entirely".

He said the record of the US airforce was "over many years is abominable, whether they are (hitting) Iranian airliners, British servicemen in personnel carriers, bridges, trains, factories and apparently refugee convoys in Yugoslavia".

Sir Peter Tapsell (C, Louth and Horncastle) criticised the Nato military action. He said it was the "most incompetent operation that Britain has been involved since the Crimea". He added: "The Prime Minister likes striking moral poses and I do not question his sincerity in all this."

Ann Clywd (Lab, Cynon Valley) appealed to the Government to do something more for the refugees. She said that "every refugee she spoke to, except one, said that they wanted to go back to Kosovo" but she warned MPs that "the reality was that many of those refugees would not return home for years".

Martin Bell (Independent, Tatton) called for clarity of war aims and said that it was foolish now to think that Milosevic could be broken by airstrikes. "Circumstances on the ground can only be altered by boots on the ground," he said.

He also complained about the way in which British war reporters, such as John Simpson of the BBC, were being attacked by the Government for alleged bias towards Serbia. He called for an end to "sniper fire from Downing Street".

Mr Bell backed the use of ground forces. "Are we the kind of people who will sit back and wring our hands and bomb from afar and let this genocide happen? Or are we the kind of people who care enough to take the risks, to create a world which will not only bring peace to the Balkans in the long run but to find the sort of security structures that we have for our own children and grand-children?"

Donald Anderson, Labour chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, claimed the House was overwhelmingly behind the Government. But he warned MPs that the allies must be prepared to accept "less than total victory" over Milosevic.

Mr Anderson said the picture was "still very gloomy" in the region, with progress less than had been hoped for.



A Harrier jump-jet on the flight deck of the aircraft-carrier *HMS Invincible* is readied for action as *HMS Newcastle* steams across the ship's stern as British forces maintain their station in the Ionian Sea

Blair's promise to retake Kosovo

THE Prime Minister said yesterday that Slobodan Milosevic would be "made to withdraw from Kosovo" (Philip Webster writes).

In a speech to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, in London, Tony Blair told the Yugoslav President that an international force would go into Kosovo. "The dispossessed refugees will be brought back into possession of that which is rightfully theirs."

Mr Blair's restatement of Nato objectives came as ministers underlined that Mr Milosevic's removal from power was not a "war aim". That explicit strategy would be against international law. But they made plain that if he was toppled because of Nato's attack it would be a happy outcome.

Allies travelling long road from Rambouillet

Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Britain has a history of going to war for objectives that it fails to achieve. After being invaded by Germany in 1914, Belgium was not liberated for more than four years, while the conquest of Poland in 1939 was not really reversed until the end of communist rule 50 years later.

In Kosovo, Nato launched its air attacks a month ago to prevent a humanitarian disaster. This has clearly not happened, as Michael Howard noted in the Commons. That in no way invalidates the Nato military action, but it does require new war aims, which Robin Cook clarified and expanded yesterday. The failure to achieve the immediate goal is largely because the expected spring offensive by the Serbs to drive out the Kosovan Albanians has been more rapid and ruthless than expected.

Nato had to act quickly after the final collapse of the peace talks, but its leaders had no clear plan. They underestimated the scale of military action required and overestimated the impact of the bombing.

President Milosevic and his forces are clearly to blame. So despite the damage being done by air attacks, Nato's inability to stop the expulsion of the Kosovan Albanians has fuelled the sense of confusion and uncertainty that was evident among several speakers in the Commons.

Tony Benn's call for the Government's approach to be debated on a substantive Commons motion was backed by Menzies Campbell and other supporters of the Nato action.

The slaughter and the bombing have naturally altered the war aims. Mr Cook reiterated the terms adopted unanimously by both Nato and the European Union: a ceasefire against the people of Kosovo; the withdrawal from Kosovo of Mr Milosevic's forces; the return of all refugees and unconditional access for humanitarian relief; and acceptance of an international military force needed to persuade refugees to return. The intention is still that such a force should be Nato led, involving Russian troops.

There are many, deliberate, ambiguities. The Prime Minister has repeatedly said that Mr Milosevic will not have a veto on the deployment of Nato forces. The implication is that while there may not be a full-scale invasion of Kosovo, ground troops may be committed once Serbian forces on the ground have been further weakened, thus reducing the risk of sizeable casualties.

Mr Cook gave the clearest outline yet of the postwar settlement. The Rambouillet proposals obviously have to be revised, taking into account the presence of the Serb Army in Kosovo. Refugees are hardly likely to be willing to return under those conditions, so "we now require full withdrawal of the Serb Army".

The international community will also have to accept "a more direct responsibility for Kosovo than envisaged at Rambouillet". This will in effect be a separate protectorate administered by international bodies, as advocated by the Liberal Democrats. Mr Cook said that his preference would be for a mandate provided by a United Nations Security Council resolution.

This plan has not yet been formally adopted, but there is broad agreement on their thrust among the five key foreign ministers (United States, Britain, Germany, France and Italy) who talk by conference call most evenings.

Nato, and the EU, are now taking responsibility for the future security and political and economic stability of the Balkans. That is a long way from either the Rambouillet terms or the original war aims.

Stomach stretch saves liver boy

By Ian Murray, medical correspondent

DOCTORS have stretched a a baby's stomach cavity to enable him to receive a bowel and liver transplant from a donor three times his size.

Jack Glass and his twin sister were born ten weeks prematurely in July 1997. He had a bowel disorder, necrotising enterocolitis, which destroys the intestine, and he had to be fed intravenously. This in turn destroyed his liver, but all available donors were too big for him.

His condition began to deteriorate just before Christmas and the surgeon Jean de Ville de Goyet decided to stretch his stomach cavity with a balloon that was filled with water over eight weeks. At the beginning of February, when he weighed 22lb and his stomach was about 25 per cent larger than it had been, a donor was found — a 10-year-old boy weighing nearly five stones.

The operation was carried out by a team from the Diana, Princess of Wales, Hospital in Birmingham.

"By then Jack had a nice roomy stomach cavity and it was possible to fit nearly seven feet of the donor's intestine into it. That should be all he needs to lead a normal life," said Susan Beath, the consultant hepatologist on the team. "We had to trim off the right lobe of the liver and use just that because the whole organ would have been much too big."

She said that such an operation had been tried only once before, on a year-old child in Japan, without good results.

"Jack has made excellent progress. He is playing and his energy levels are good," she said. "This procedure opens up the possible donor field tremendously. We can now consider donors who are three to four times heavier than the patient."

Jack is to fly to Glasgow today to spend his first night at home. His mother, Carrie, said that she and her husband, Jerry, had no doubts about agreeing to the treatment. "It was Jack's only chance."



Jack Glass with his mother, Carrie. He was given a ten-year-old boy's bowel and liver

BBC fights to subdue unrest over Dyke

Critics say Labour donations may cost Director-General candidate, report Andrew Pierce and Susie Steiner

FORMER governors of the BBC and senior broadcasters expressed concern last night at the prospect of Greg Dyke, who has donated £50,000 to the Labour Party, becoming the Director-General.

Sir Christopher Bland, the Chairman of the Board of Governors, last night tried to defuse the controversy ignited by disclosures in *The Times* about the scale of Mr Dyke's donations to Labour. He said the competition for the most powerful job in broadcasting was "genuinely open". The selection process would be rigorous and objective with "no discussion of any candidates with any politicians of any party", he said in a letter to *The Times*. Serving governors refused to discuss the merits of Mr Dyke, the multimillionaire Labour member who is Downing Street's preferred candidate, but several former governors openly expressed anxiety.

Dame Jocelyn Barrow, the first black woman governor, said: "Political donations of this magnitude disqualify Greg Dyke from the running. You cannot do this job if you have such a close relationship with one political party and have cemented it with such a large donation."

Other past governors argued that to appoint such an overt supporter of new Labour would be a betrayal of the principles of Lord Reith, the founding father of the corporation.

Watson Peat, a Scottish broadcaster who helped to appoint Sir Michael Checkland, predecessor of Sir John Birt, said Mr Dyke's Labour link could cost him dearly. "If there are other candidates who are equally as strong, it will definitely count against him.

"If someone wants to be high profile politically, they should surrender their public appointments."

Baroness James of Holland Park, the writer P.D. James, was also uneasy. "I must say the scale of the donations surprises me," she said.

Mr Dyke was one of a dozen media executives who bankrolled Mr Blair's 1994 leadership campaign to the tune of £72,000. He has paid Labour £50,000 since 1994.

The broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby warned the BBC to proceed with caution: "It is crucially important that whoever is appointed is not only independent of any political party but is seen to be independent of any political party."

Mr Dyke, chairman of Pearson Television and former chief executive of London Weekend Television, is a paid-up member of the Labour Party. He refused to comment yesterday.

He is a close friend of the BBC chairman. He and Sir Christopher were colleagues at LWT. Sir Christopher, a Tory, encouraged Mr Dyke to allow his name to go forward to succeed Sir John Birt next spring.

The Times contacted 11 of the 12 serving governors, but only four returned telephone calls. Tony Young, who joined last July, refused to comment on Mr Dyke's credentials. Mr Young, a leader of the Communication Workers' Union, said: "It would be more than my appointment was worth."

Roger Jones, the governor for Wales, who is chairman of the Institute of Directors in the Principality, declined to comment saying: "I don't know who the candidates are."

Dame Pauline Neville-Jones, former Foreign Office official, insisted that the governors, and not the Government, would make the choice. "The Reithian principles are extremely important to the BBC and remain valid. We all treasure the independence of the board of governors," she said.

But Sir Graham Hills, the former Scottish governor and education adviser to the Government, said: "It flies in the face of Lord Reith. The Director-General must be impartial, disinterested, and seen to be so. It must be an appointment in the true tradition of Reith.

"In this modern age it is difficult to find a candidate whose hands have not been muddied. But it is not an insurmountable problem. There are perfectly good internal candidates."

Liberal and Conservative MPs have criticised the emergence of Mr Dyke as favourite for the £377,000-a-year post. Martin Bell, the Independent MP and former BBC foreign correspondent, said that the £50,000 donation disclosed in *The Times* should mean automatic disqualification.

There was support for Mr Dyke from Lord Barnett, a former vice-chairman of the BBC, who was Chief Secretary to the Treasury in the last Labour Government. "The amount of money Greg Dyke may or may not have given to the Labour Party should not have any effect on his application. It is whether he can do the job or not. I do not know enough about the candidates to know whether I would support him," he said.

Margaret Spurr, a governor until last September, said: "We have all got political views which do not have to cloud our judgment."

Five other men have been shortlisted for the post of Director-General, four from within the BBC, plus Richard Eyre, 44, the chief executive of ITV.

Anthony Howard, page 24



Dyke: gave to Tony Blair's leadership campaign

Doctors 'tried to hide baby death error'

By Claudia Joseph

TWO senior doctors tried to cover up the accidental poisoning of a baby girl after she was injected with 100 times the intended dose of morphine because of a mathematical error, the General Medical Council heard yesterday.

Jean Shorland, a consultant paediatrician at Rotherham General District Hospital, instructed Vivian Michel, the registrar who administered the morphine, not to mention the overdose on the death certificate of Louise Wood, a twin, and he complied.

Yesterday, Dr Shorland and Dr Michel faced charges of professional misconduct alongside another colleague, Hilary Evans, a junior doctor who put a decimal point in the wrong place and miscalculated the fatal dosage at 15 milligrams instead of 0.15mg.

All three doctors denied the charge. Dr Shorland, who has heart problems and suffers from stress, did not appear before the council's Professional Conduct Committee.

She was also criticised for displaying little compassion when she informed Louise's parents, Brian Purshouse, 37, a machinist, and his wife Linda, 38, about Louise's death, and for waiting two days before informing the coroner.

The committee heard that Louise and her twin sister Natalie were born on September 30, 1995, seven weeks prematurely. The following day, as Louise began suffering breathing problems, Dr Michel decided to insert a chest drain.

Dr Evans calculated how much morphine was needed to sedate Louise on a scrap of paper. But, after putting the decimal point in the wrong place, gave Dr Michel two syringes containing 15mg of the drug instead of 0.15. Dr Evans, 29, admitted she should have known the dosage was excessive.

Dr Michel, the consultant paediatrician, admitted unwittingly administering an excessive dose of morphine and certifying the cause of death as pneumothorax or suffocation.

Dr Shorland, 58, denied that the cause of death was uncertain and its certification potentially misleading. She disputed that she should not have instructed Dr Michel to complete the death certificate.

The hearing continues.

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Lost war memorial found in junk shop

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

OLD boys from the school attended by Sir Paul McCartney are aghast to have found its war memorials languishing in a council basement and a junk shop.

They had been told the memorials would be saved when the Liverpool Institute High School for Boys became the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, thanks to the star's fortune. Major David Evans found the Great War memorial in a "filthy state" at Liverpool education authority's offices. The tribute to the Second World War dead was among bric-à-brac in a second-hand furniture shop.

Sir Paul's spokesman said it was not the sort of thing he would want to happen: "He would want to preserve the building." Liverpool City Council said it was concerned and would investigate.

Letters, page 25

PAUL COUSANS



David Evans and Hal Giblin, old boys of Liverpool Institute, saved its war memorials

Holocaust centre to have shattered look

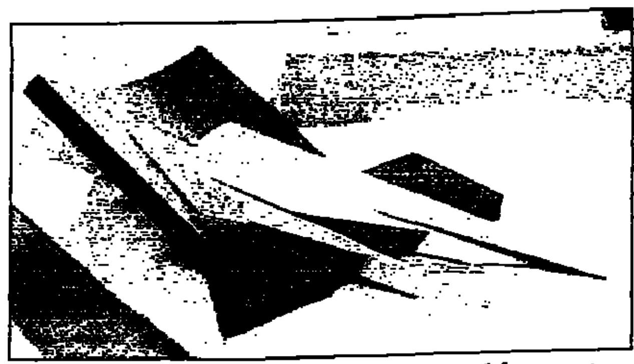
Russell Jenkins on a radical design for a national museum in the North

LEADERS of Britain's Jewish community will unveil plans by the architect Daniel Liebeskind this week for a national Holocaust museum.

They hope the Shoah Centre will record the experiences of individuals, families and communities caught up in the Nazi genocide and relate them to the oppression of minorities today.

The building, a typically striking composition of shattered fragments by the architect, is to be built beside the Manchester Ship Canal, in Trafford. It is designed to complement its neighbours, the Imperial War Museum of the North, a spectacular concept building also designed by Mr Liebeskind, and the Lowry Centre.

Mr Liebeskind, one of Europe's most radical architects, designed the recently completed Jewish Museum in Berlin, based on a flattened and mangled Star of David. Among its controversial features are vast empty spaces, signifying the years when Jewish life was all but extinguished in that city.



The building will be composed of shattered fragments

The proposed museum will be Britain's answer, more than half a century after the last concentration camp was freed by advancing allied troops, to similar Holocaust museums in Israel, continental Europe and the United States.

Bill Williams, chairman of the project, said that the museum's primary purpose would be to direct attention to the kinds of prejudice from which the Holocaust was "constructed".

He said: "The museum will depart from the narrative approach, adopted by others. The emphasis will not be on the emergence of the perpetrators or their modes of destruction, but on the experience of their victims. It will be about how the Holocaust was experienced by individuals, families and communities."

The museum will benefit from a long-term project by the Manchester Jewish Museum to preserve the testimonies of survivors. Curators will also be able to exploit the National Sound Archive of the British Library and the extensive collection of documents and photographs in the Imperial War Museum. A bid is being prepared to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for the bulk of the costs.

Sir Sidney Hamburger, president of the project and an elder statesman of Manchester's Jewish community, said: "The concept for the museum was first considered in 1993. We have not got all the bricks in place. All we need is £7 million of mortar. The museum will be an educational experience to show today's societies the horrors of indifference."

Pauleen Lane, deputy leader of Trafford council, said that the two Liebeskind buildings would form a spectacular vista across the Manchester Ship Canal. Daniel Liebeskind was also the architect behind the Victoria & Albert Museum's spiral-shaped extension.

Viagra earns Dome place as best of British

BY MARK HENDERSON

VIAGRA has won a place as one of the brightest British innovations of the 1990s. The blue pill that is said to have transformed the lives of impotent men around the world was declared an official Millennium Product for display at Greenwich yesterday.

The announcement came from Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, whose Cabinet colleague Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, plans to limit the availability of the drug on the NHS.

Viagra is likely to find its way into the Body Zone, though it has yet to be decided in what part of the 90ft, genitalia-free, sculpture of a couple embracing it should be displayed.

While much of the Body Zone will feature audience participation, the Viagra exhibit is thought unlikely to be interactive. Nor is it known whether it could be shown alongside another Millennium Product, the ultra-thin condom.

Viagra is made by the American pharmaceutical company Pfizer, but qualifies for Millennium Product status because it was largely developed by British scientists at the firm's laboratory in Sandwich, Kent. Andy Burrows, of Pfizer, said that the drug was a "major breakthrough" and deserved its best-of-British tag. It was "a slight irony" that the pills were not yet fully available on the NHS, he said.

Millennium Products will be be scattered throughout the Dome when it opens next year. Items chosen by the Design Council include a waterless urinal, the Ford Focus car, an aqualung that lasts 100 times longer than conventional models and a landmine clearance system.

Younger visitors to the Greenwich exhibition will also be able to enjoy the antics of the Teletubbies, who won Millennium Product status as one of Britain's most successful entertainment exports.

A spokesman for the New Millennium Experience Company said: "We believe that people will find a visit to the Dome uplifting enough without Viagra. But Viagra is expected to be featured some time during the year 2000."



www.design-council.org.uk The Design Council home page
www.dome2000.co.uk The Millennium Dome home page

Nail-bomb boy was inches from death

BY TIM REID AND ELIZABETH JUDGE

THE toddler who had a 4in nail removed from his brain after the Brixton market bombing in South London was extremely lucky to have suffered only superficial injuries, the surgeon who oversaw his operation said yesterday.

The unnamed boy was recovering and in good spirits after the emergency operation on Sunday and was running around his ward at Great Ormond Street hospital.

Dominic Thompson, a consultant neurosurgeon, said: "The nail entered his temple about an inch to the side of his left eye and pierced the left frontal lobe of his brain. If the nail had pierced one of the blood vessels around the brain, or even penetrated his face, the injury could have been fatal."

The boy's parents said, in answer to written questions from *The Times*, that he spent yesterday playing with the nurses and charging around. "He doesn't know what has gone on," they said. "He has not been scared. The first thing he did after coming round after the operation was just to hug his Dad."

The boy tucked into a breakfast of milk and cereal within an hour of returning from theatre at 6.15am on Sunday, they said.

The couple, who have asked not to be named, said they were "just shocked" when they realised how serious his condition was. "Then we just prayed." They were enormously relieved that the surgery had gone so well: "We want to thank all the hospital staff and the surgeons for their help."

Mr Thompson said that the child was not likely to experience any long-term effects. "We are in the early stages, but I have every reason to believe that he will continue to make a good recovery. We are keeping him in hospital for a few days, but then he should be able to go home."

A total of 14 people spent a third night in hospitals across London. Three victims were still in danger of losing their sight as doctors from King's College Hospital operated on them for a second time yesterday. The victims, a man aged 32, another in his 60s and an elderly woman who has a brain injury that could affect her vision, will not know for "several weeks" whether doctors have been able to save their sight, the hospital said.

Of the six other patients at the hospital, two were in a serious but stable condition with "nasty but not life-threatening shrapnel injuries". Five had surgery yesterday, including skin grafts and scans to check for internal bleeding.

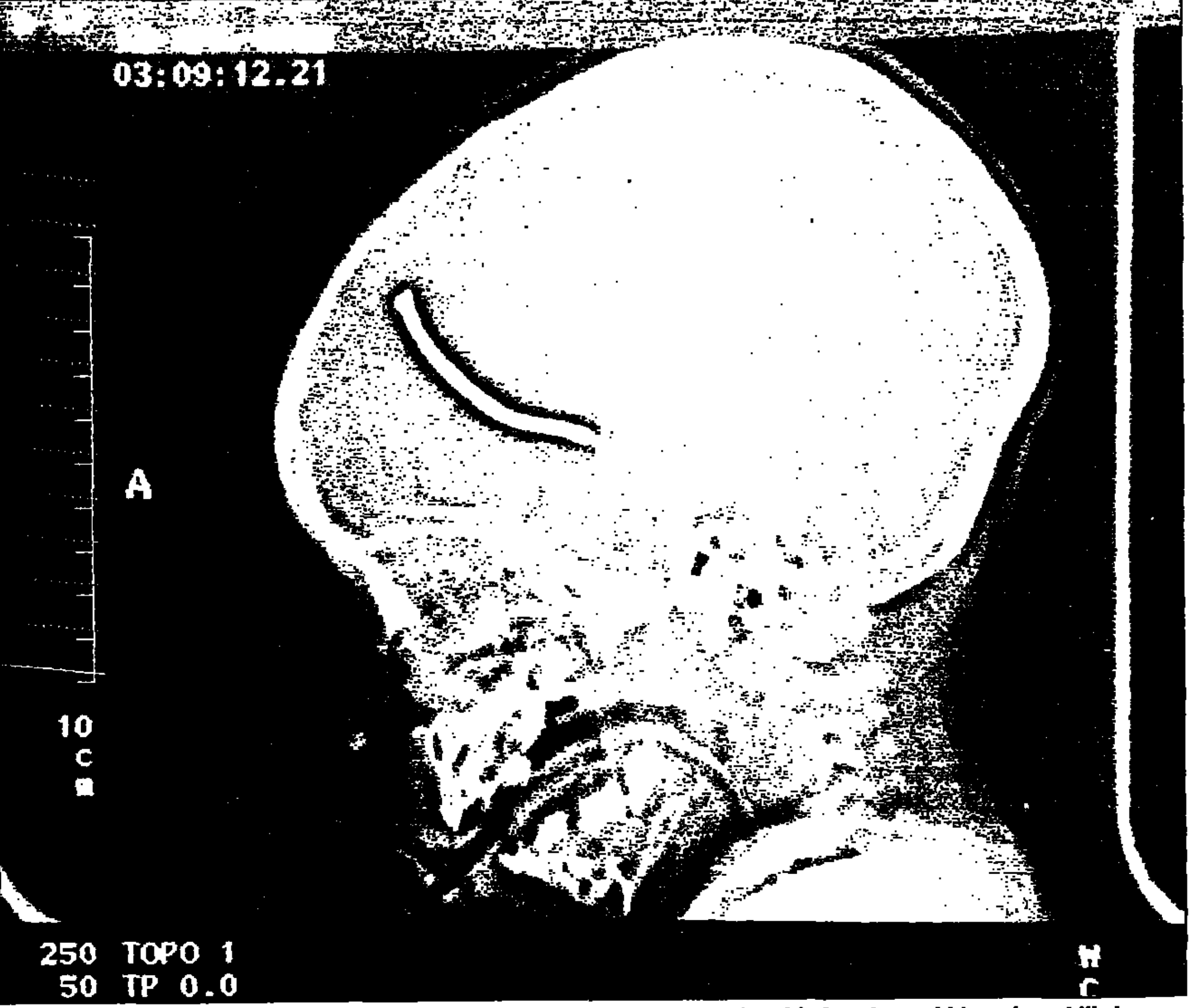
At St Thomas's Hospital, Ogo Nwokolo, 16, was recovering from an operation to remove a 3½in nail from her pelvis. Her sister, Ijeoma, 17, was discharged after having a nail removed from her abdomen.

Aiah Manjo, 29, a guard from the Iceland supermarket where the nail bomb was first spotted, had nails removed from his leg and stomach and debris from his eye. He was described last night as being "comfortable".

POLICE SEARCH CAMERA EVIDENCE

THE Brixton bomber chose one of the most closely monitored high streets in Britain to plant his device (Stewart Tendler writes).

Yesterday detectives were searching for a sight of him among crowds on film from closed-circuit television cameras covering the centre of Brixton. Lambeth council has handed police hundreds of hours of film from 23 cameras that cover the area and were introduced to curb muggers, pickpockets and car thieves. Ten cameras monitor the area around the bomb site and others focus on the railway and Underground stations.



The nail embedded in the boy's brain. If it had pierced a blood vessel, or his face, he could have been killed

Prisoner 'induced hanging of cellmate'

BY RICHARD FORD

A PRISONER received such sadistic pleasure out of watching cellmates hanging themselves that he tried to bring about their deaths, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Glenn Wright used drugs to lure cellmates into nooses made from sheets at Woodhill prison, Buckinghamshire, and Pentonville, North London, the court was told. Two victims were saved but a third, at Woodhill, died in hospital.

Wright, 27, denies murder, attempted murder and aiding an attempted suicide.

Michael Worsley, QC, for the prosecution, said that, in 1996, Wright had made a noose for William Scott, and supplied pills to him; Scott was found hanging from a door in the cell they shared but was saved after Wright pressed a button to summon help.

In 1997, Wright was sharing a cell with Karelius Smith when he was found hanging; he died a week later. Mr Worsley said Smith had been happy and was to have been transferred the next day.

Last year, Wright was sharing a Pentonville cell with Kenneth Cross; he was said to have put a noose round his head.

The trial continues.

Relative tells of euthanasia GP's care

BY TIM JONES

A DOCTOR accused of murdering an elderly and bedridden cancer sufferer was described by the dead man's son-in-law yesterday as "a remarkably good doctor".

Speaking in hushed tones and wiping tears from his eyes, Anthony Ryan, 66, told Newcastle Crown Court that his father-in-law, George Liddell, 85, had been in acute pain before David Moor injected him with a massive dose of diamorphine in July 1997. Mr Ryan said that, when he tried to arrange the pillows on Mr Liddell's bed, he had screamed in pain. "When I eased him forward he started to cry. It was a long and protracted cry and this was more than I could stand. I have never heard anything like it."

Mr Ryan, who now lives in Ireland, said that Dr Moor, 52, who denies murdering Mr Liddell, was kind and caring. Over the years, Mr Ryan told the court, he had lost two wives to cancer and Dr Moor had always been extremely supportive.

The doctor, from Stamfordham, Northumberland, was arrested after publicly airing his views on euthanasia.

The trial continues.

Union blow for SNP



Trade unions delivered a body blow to the Scottish National Party by attacking moves for independence as "divisive policies which foster prejudice and racism". Delegates at the Scottish TUC in Glasgow backed the motion from the Fire Brigades Union rejecting independence by ten to one. Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, said that the unions had been pressed into submission by the Labour Party. *Jason Allardyce,* *page 24*

Brown accused

Gordon Brown was accused by the SNP of "kindergarten economics" after he said that 367,000 Scottish jobs would be put at risk by independence. The Chancellor told businessmen during a breakfast in Glasgow that one in five jobs and half of Scotland's export market, worth £20 billion, were dependent on the United Kingdom.

QUOTE of the day

Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, addressing an STUC fringe meeting:

"Old Tory and New Labour cohabit an agenda that has eroded what mainstream Scotland believes in"

today's AGENDA

Jim Wallace of the Lib Dems meets police officers in Paisley. David McLetchie, the Scottish Tory leader, is campaigning in Edinburgh. The SNP's president, Winnie Ewing, is attending a press conference in Inverness before canvassing in the Highlands. Labour's Donald Dewar is campaigning in the Borders

Tories' leader revels in the uphill battle

By Jason Allardyce and Magnus Linklater

OTHER parties have their campaign battle buses. The rebranded Scottish Conservatives have a modest "people carrier". It has room for just six people, but then that's six more than the number of MPs the party has in Scotland.

Wrestling with a recalcitrant carseat before setting off for an afternoon's campaigning in Ayrshire is David McLetchie, the Edinburgh lawyer who is seeking to haul the party back from oblivion.

This was once described as "the worst job in politics," but leader of the Scottish Tories is in sunny form. He has taken off his jacket and discarded his heather buttonhole: "We only wear it in the mornings, but it keeps the chairman happy."

Written off as a faceless also-ran before the campaign began, Mr McLetchie has had a good election. His assured performance in a Channel 4 debate, his good-humoured campaigning style, and the fact that, with little prospect of power, he has felt able to explore issues with a freedom denied to other party leaders, have given him an edge in an otherwise grim battle.

"I'm enjoying it," Mr McLetchie admits. "I've found my feet fairly quickly. I always knew I could do it, because I have an inner strength. I'm gaining in confidence. People seem to like what I'm doing, and I'm presenting the new face of the Tories."

That face is different from anything seen before from a party once vilified in Scotland as uncaringly right-wing. With a manifesto that began by apologising for past mistakes, it has recast itself as distinctively Scottish, embracing policies on health, education and housing well to the left of the London-based Tories.

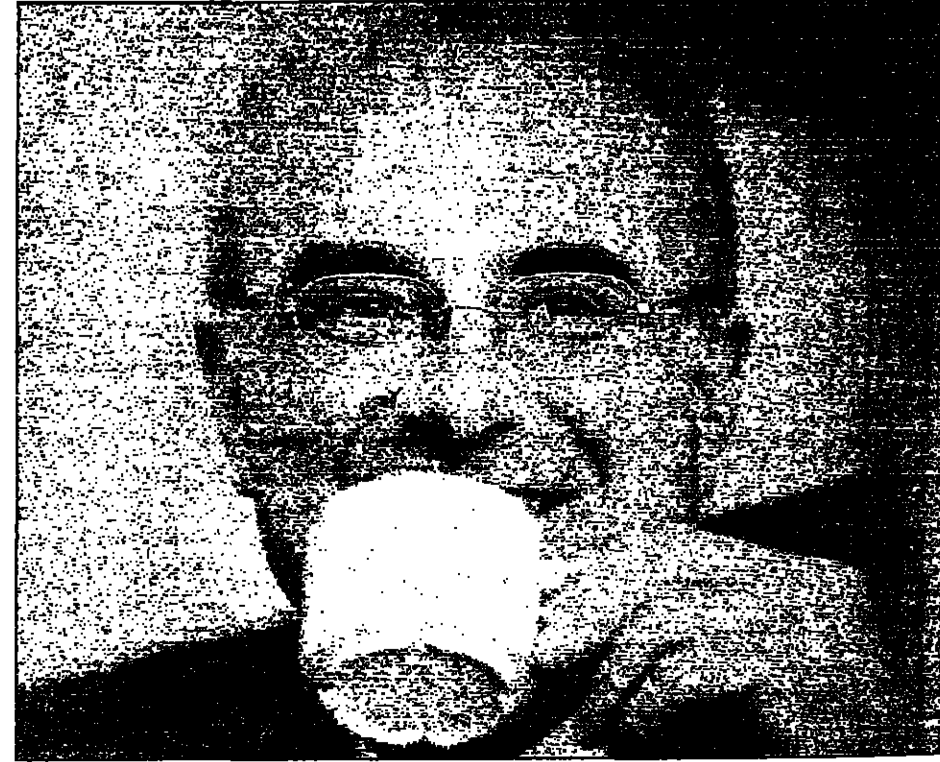
Mr McLetchie has even said that while the Scottish parliament is here for keeps, "the jury is out on the Union" — unheard of sentiments from a Tory. He is unapologetic. "The party had to reinvent itself," he says. "We have complete autonomy on all matters devolved to the parliament. William Hague has made clear that these are our responsibility, not his."

He has announced that he is prepared to do deals with the Labour Party on specific issues, to propose the abolition of university tuition fees, and even to discuss federalism in Britain. "I'm not too prescriptive about it," he says. "People in England have got to make up their minds as to what they want." And though adamantly against separatism, he admits that there is a financial case to be made for independence.

Judged on economic grounds alone, he says, Scotland could be viable on its own, adding, however, "I don't see it in purely money terms. If it was measured in purely money terms, you might as well hand the prize to Alex Salmond [the Scottish National Party leader] because there will always be money terms, particularly if oil prices move in a favourable way, where you might be able to say we would be better off.

"History suggests that nationalism can be a dangerous force, but it can also be a creative one," he says. "It depends on the nature of the party delivering it. I do dislike the anti-English mentality that is all too often associated with the Scots — the chip-on-the-shoulder attitude."

Is he not daunted by his task? "If ever I got a bit down, thinking people are complaining about me, well it is only a fraction of what William Hague was getting. He's battling on and I'm battling on. His qualities are coming to the fore and I hope mine are too."


David McLetchie on the campaign trail. His good-humoured style has been praised

Campaign role for Mandelson

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

PETER MANDELSON has been called in to help Labour in its campaign for the Scottish election in a sign of his slowly improving relations with Gordon Brown.

The Chancellor, who is playing a substantial role in Scotland, was happy for the former Industry Secretary, who resigned last December over his loan from Geoffrey Robinson, then Paymaster General, to attend a strategy meeting with Philip Gould, Mr Blair's elections adviser, and Douglas Alexander, a leading campaign figure.

News of the meeting has emerged as a new book outlines the extent of the recent feud between Mr Brown and Mr Mandelson, two of the founders of new Labour. According to *Mandelson: the Biography*, by Donald Macintyre, Mr Blair wrote to Mr Mandelson accusing him and Mr Brown of seeming "more desirous of victory over each other" than of trying to make their relationship work.

The relationship between Mr Brown and Mr Mandelson has been deeply uneasy since 1994, when the latter backed Mr Blair for the Labour leadership. The atmosphere has improved markedly in the months since Mr Mandelson left office. Relations are now cordial, although one mutual friend said: "So much has happened between them in the past that they can never be bosom friends again."

Blairite aides were delighted at Mr Mandelson's attendance at the Scottish election meeting and Mr Brown's acceptance of it.

In his disclosed letter to Mr Mandelson, Mr Blair wrote: "We are not players in some Greek tragedy. We have one overriding responsibility: to deliver an election victory.

"Have you any conception of how despairing it is for me when the two people who have been closest to me for more than a decade, and who in their different ways are the most brilliant minds of their generation, will not lay aside personal animosity and help me win?"


Mandelson: he attended election strategy meeting



Bramhall High School
Tel: 061 439 8245 HEADTEACHER JOHN PECKHAM B.Ed., M.Sc.

The Stockport comprehensive acted despite local education authority reservations

Head calls in sniffer dog for drugs hunt

Two pupils are suspended for having cannabis after a search by a security firm, writes Russell Jenkins

THE headmaster of a comprehensive in an affluent suburb of Manchester brought a *sniffer dog into the school in* an attempt to end drug dealing among pupils.

John Peckham, of Bramhall High School, in Stockport, recruited the £35-a-day dog and *handler* to check cloakrooms, changing rooms and playground areas.

The pair uncovered two 15-year-old pupils in possession of cannabis. They were suspended but not expelled in the action, which was meant as a warning to the 1,450 pupils that drugs will not be tolerated.

The headmaster went ahead with what is believed to be the first such action of its kind, knowing that the Stockport education authority was apprehensive about the action.

Mr Peckham emphasised that the use of dogs was only part of a comprehensive anti-drugs message to his pupils. He insisted that the school did not have a significant drugs problem.

He approached governors and parents before hiring *Steve Warren, who runs* Sovereign Specialised Security, based in Macclesfield, and his dog, Scuba. Lessons were unaffected as the dog hunted for drugs around the public areas of the school, including the perimeter fence. Pupils have been given a warning that there may be further raids.

Mr Peckham said: "As far as I know, we are the only school to go down this road. We thought about it long and hard and we thought it was the right thing to do. Ninety per cent of our pupils would not dream of dabbling with illegal drugs. They do not want a school that is associated with that sort of thing.

"We were aware that there were one or two who felt they could bring cannabis into school and they thought nobody could do anything about it and we could not search them.

"Even if we could, 1,500 kids is a lot and it would take a *long time. They thought they* were immune. They thought they could walk around and nobody could do anything about it."

Mr Peckham has not had to expel a pupil in his three years at the school. However, he said that drugs were an issue for every school in the country.

"We have no more and no less of a problem than most other schools," he said. "The more you can do to address the problem, the better. Kids do things that are foolish, but by having these searches we are providing another weapon in the armouries of those who want to say no to drugs."



Peckham: told pupils to expect further searches

Max Hunt, Stockport's chief education officer, said: "We were apprehensive about the use of sniffer dogs. Stockport has been a leader in the field of drugs education and, since 1992, we have had comprehesive procedures to support our schools with drugs education and intervention where there is a problem.

"We told the school we were not too keen on the use of dogs. We think it might disturb, worry or even frighten younger pupils. However, it is a matter for the governors and the head teacher of the school to decide."

Mark Hunter, the local authority's education chairman, said that Stockport's policy of zero tolerance to drugs did *not* include the use of sniffer dogs. But he added that it was a matter *for the school.*

Liberty, the civil rights group, is critical of the initiative. *The pressure group suggests* that drugs and alcohol abuse could be treated more *sympathetically* with counselling.

A spokesman said: "No one agrees with drug abuse, but there are ways of helping young people to kick the habit. The school's approach is not the answer. We would expect community relations to suffer as a result between young people, the police and the school."

Scuba, a golden labrador, is usually used to look for drugs in nightclubs around the Macclesfield area.

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS



Steve Warren and Scuba at the school. The golden labrador usually searches nightclubs for drugs

Microchip solution to animal cruelty

By Elizabeth Judge

PETS should have microchips injected into them so that owners who ill-treat them can be traced and punished, the RSPCA said yesterday.

Although there were more than 3,000 convictions for cruelty *to* animals last year, a 17.5 per cent rise on the previous year, the perpetrators of some of the worst offences were not punished because they could not be traced, the RSPCA said. Tony Crittenden, Chief Officer of Inspectorate, cited the case of Sylvester the iguana, found wandering in a field in Somerset. Its tail had been severely burnt and it had abscesses and mites and intestinal worms.

Mr Crittenden said: "Such unsolved cases clearly show the need for animals to be microchipped so that pets are permanently linked to their owners. That way, unscrupulous owners who commit such cruel and barbaric acts of violence could be brought to justice."

A microchip the size of a grain of rice is injected into the animal by a veterinary surgeon. It lies *under the skin at the* back of the neck, giving the animal a permanent means of identification. All RSPCA inspectors and vets have microchip scanners. They can *use these to scan a stray animal* and if it has a microchip its owners can be traced.

***The society has designated this* Saturday as National Microchipping Day: pet-owners *will be able to take their dogs* and cats to local centres to have them microchipped at a reduced price. "Our inspectors work tirelessly to prevent cruelty but continue to see an increase in the number of animals found abused and living in appalling conditions," Mr Crittenden said.**

Dogs remained the most common victims of cruelty, and convictions increased last year. One case highlighted was that of Libby and Lulu, two greyhound puppies left to starve for at least four weeks in an outside kennel in Blackpool. Their owner was banned from keeping dogs for three years. Convictions for cruelty to cats also rose, from 294 in 1997 to 318 last year.

Pill's all-clear for cancer may be flawed

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

RESEARCH that ruled out a link between breast cancer and the Pill may be flawed, according to a leading expert. He fears that as many as one in 18 women on the Pill face a breast cancer diagnosis before they reach 50.

Doubts about the safety of the oral contraceptive seemed to be ended in January with the publication of a 25-year study of 46,000 women that found that the tiny extra risk of heart disease or breast cancer vanished within ten years.

Klim McPherson, of the cancer and public health unit at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, fears this reassurance "may be seriously misplaced". He writes in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* today that the uncertainty arises from a change in the Pill's use.

Professor McPherson says that the women in the study *were recruited in* 1968, when it was difficult to obtain the Pill while unmarried. So most of *them were married* or in long-term relationships. This contrasts with today, when "long-*term use by young, unmarried* women is completely normal. [In 1968] the Pill was used largely for family *spacing*, now it is used largely for preventing unwanted pregnancies among the young."

The risk of breast cancer is increased among women for whom the time between starting to menstruate and having a first baby is longest, Professor McPherson says. But there is hardly any evidence about what the extra danger might be among those who were taking oral contraceptives for a long time before having a child, *he says*.

Exposure to the hormones in the Pill does seem to increase the danger of breast cancer. To know the effect of long-term use of the Pill on early-stage breast cancer and to find any increased risk means studies have to start now, Professor McPherson says. Not until 2010 will it be possible to say with any certainty what the risk is.

He compares the reassurances given about the Pill with those given about BSE.

LINKS

www.icnet.uk Imperial Cancer Research Fund
www.crc.org.uk The Cancer Research Campaign. Both sites provide advice, information and research news on breast cancer

Messing about in boats linked to leukaemia

By Our Medical Correspondent

PEOPLE who build boats or sail in them are at extra risk of developing leukaemia, according to a study published today.

The danger comes from exposure to resins, solvents, paints and petroleum products, which are known to be risk factors for the disease.

The study by the department of community medicine at the Institute of Public Health at Cambridge University involved finding the postcode of all those over 14 diagnosed with acute leukaemia in East Anglia since 1981.

The findings, published in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, showed that eight postcode districts had a small but significant increase in leukaemia cases. These areas were all adjacent to the major estuaries around the Norfolk and Suffolk coast, including the Stour, Orwell, Deben and Ore. The clustering was seen equally in men and women, both before and after the age of 65.

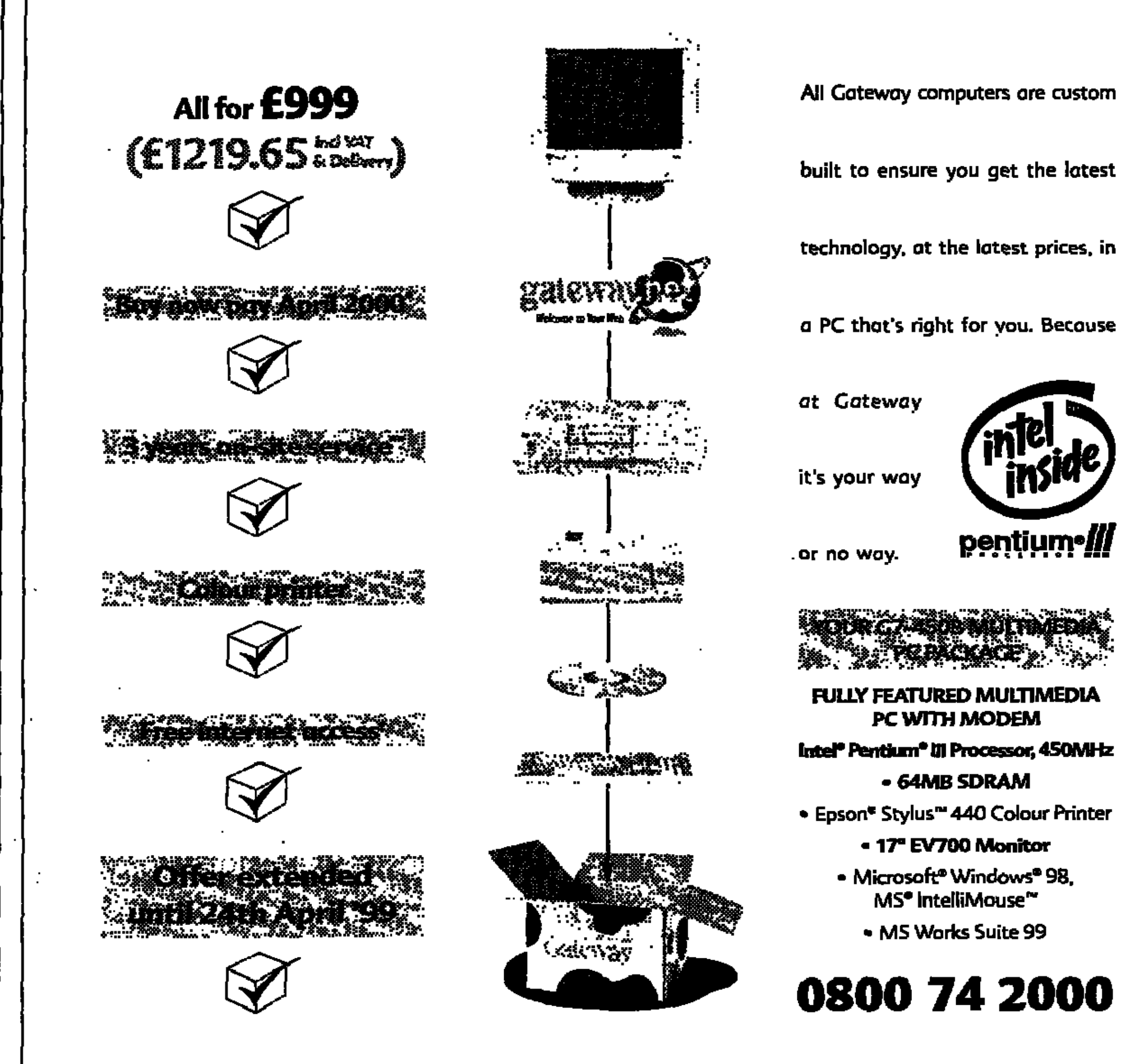
A study in 1990 also found a higher incidence of the disease among people living along the estuaries, but the new research shows the relative risk is twice that reported before.

The 1990 study blamed heavy metals and radioactive substances found in estuarine silt. But the authors of the new report say that the level of maritime activity might be to blame since more people living round estuaries are likely to be working in boatyards or sailing, thus coming into frequent contact with the potentially dangerous substances.

Paul Gelder, deputy editor of *Yachting Monthly*, said marine paints and solvents all carried warnings about the dangers of skin contact. "I have had a boat for 15 years but this is the first time I have heard of any link between leukaemia and paints."

Professor Nicholas Day, one of the report's authors, said: "The message is that do-it-yourself boat people need to be a lot more careful because they are using a range of chemicals that they don't understand. Organic solvents are at least as powerful as radioactivity and can cause cancers.

"Our study shows that the incidence of leukaemia round estuaries is double the normal rate. Our conclusion that messing about with boats is more dangerous is pretty speculative for a very rare disease, but the wise thing is for people doing this kind of thing to be very careful."





Army 'unfair' on officer's adultery

By Helen Johnstone

A SENIOR officer dismissed from the Army *after an adulterous* affair with a high-ranking Wren whose career was unaffected is a victim of sexual discrimination and double standards, *an em*ployment tribunal was told yesterday.

The hearing into the sacking of Lieutenant-Colonel Keith Pople, 42, *was* told that the Royal Navy adopted a *more lenient* approach than the Army to social misconduct. Mr Pople and the 34-year-old Wren, who cannot be named, *had a three-year* affair after meeting at the Ministry of Defence.

Details of the affair emerged at a court martial last year when Mr Pople, then the £45,000-a-year commanding officer of an Army Air Corps regiment, became one of the highest-ranking officers to appear before a military court. Mr Pople, who was sacked despite being acquitted of scandalous conduct or conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, will learn today whether he can proceed with his *claim for sexual discrimination and* damages in the region of £500,000.

John Mackenzie for Mr Pople, told the tribunal at Southampton that his client, whose 20-year career ended in February, had been treated more harshly than his former lover. The Ministry of Defence rejects the claim.

Colonel Stephen Andrews, head of the Army's disciplinary policy, said *that each of the services had individual* powers over their personnel: "The Army Board had ruled that his conduct was unbecoming an officer. A female officer in Lieutenant-Colonel Pople's case would have faced the same procedure."

Captain Annette Picton, the head of *conditions of service* in the Royal Navy, said that that service did not condone adultery, but did not consider it to be a discipilinary offence.

Ruth Downing, for the Defence Secretary, said that the tribunal should not make any comparison of the services' respective disciplinary codes.

The tribunal continues.

Ecevit quits as Turkey veers to right

Nationalist success sows seeds of Kurdish confrontation, writes Andrew Finkel in Istanbul

THE cold wind of Balkan nationalism penetrated Turkish politics yesterday as results of Sunday's general election became clear. Among the victors of a contest that stunned political analysts was the far-right Nationalist Action Party (NAP), whose 19 per cent of the poll makes it the second-largest group in parliament.

The party preaches a hard line on issues like Kurdish minority rights and feeds off Turkey's quarrel with Greece as well as Ankara's growing sense of isolation from Europe. Its success appears to have been at the expense of the Islamic movement, which saw its share of the vote reduced to 15 per cent.

At the same time the Kurdish Nationalist Party consolidated its support. Although scoring less than half of the 10 per cent threshhold needed to win parliamentary seats, it polled well at local elections held the same day. It now controls the greater Diyarbakir municipality as well as a handful of cities in the largely Kurdish south east.

These results set the stage for further polarisation on the Kurdish issue. Even if the NAP does not find its way into government, it will be a brave Cabinet that refuses to approve the death penalty for Abdullah Ocalan, the head of the Kurdistan Workers Party, who is about to face trial.

But just how the NAP will use its new power remains a mystery.

The party failed to win any seats at all at the 1995 election and its leader, Devlet Bahceli, a very private man, has virtually no public persona. He wrestled control of the party from both the widow and the son of Alparslan Turkes, the party's founder.

Mr Turkes once tried to reform the party's image as a paramilitary force of "grey wolves", which picked violent quarrels with leftwingers during the 1970s.

Some of those cadres were later recruited by Turkish intelligence and used against "enemies of the state", including Kurdish activists. The justice system, meanwhile, has reacted sluggishly to newspaper claims that several NAP militants also have links with organised crime.

Most commentators assumed it would be Bulent Ecevit, the outgoing Prime Minister, who would receive credit for the capture of Mr Ocalan in Kenya last February. His Democratic Left Party, itself deeply critical of Turkey's treatment by the European Union, did emerge as the overall winner with 22 per cent of the vote. Mr Ecevit handed his resignation yesterday to President Demirel but is expected to stay on as caretaker. Although he will almost certainly be given the mandate to form a government, with only 131 deputies in the 550-seat parliament, this will mean finding not just one but two coalition partners.

One possibility is that he will persuade Mesut Yilmaz of the Motherland Party to end his feud with Tansu Ciller of the True Path Party. Both right-wing leaders saw support drop to some 13 per cent.

The election result comes as a blow to Recai Kutan, leader of the pro-Islamic Virtue Party. Many voters appear to have abandoned him in the belief that the country's military would never let the Islamists take power.

Recent celebrations for the 75th anniversary of the Turkish Republic were used to proclaim the commitment to a secular future. However, by hammering the Virtue Party, Turkey's generals may well have let the more dangerous nationalist genie out of the bottle.

Moscow threat to arrest ailing Berezovsky

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

AN arrest warrant for Boris Berezovsky, the billionaire businessman with ties to the Yeltsin family, may be reissued after he returned to Russia to face charges. He checked straight into hospital, prompting suspicion that he is trying to avoid interrogation.

Russia's most influential tycoon is accused of embezzling millions of dollars from Aeroflot, the former Soviet airline, and hiding the money in a Swiss bank. He has close business links with President Yeltsin's family. An arrest warrant was withdrawn after he announced in Paris that he would return to Moscow.

Mr Berezovsky arrived in Moscow on Sunday and entered Central Clinical Hospital, citing back problems. Nikolai Volkov, an investigator from the Prosecutor General's office, said: "If Mr Berezovsky is indeed sick, we will not bother him. But if we feel that he is avoiding meeting with us on any pretext, we may issue a new warrant."

Mr Berezovsky protests his innocence, saying that he is the victim of a witch-hunt led by Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister. "If I had wanted to play with the Prosecutor General's office I simply would not have returned to Moscow," he said yesterday from his hospital bed. He said that his back had been a problem since a snowmobile accident last year prompted "very complicated" spinal surgery.

He agreed to a hospital meeting with Mr Volkov. His lawyer said that Mr Berezovsky would remain in hospital for three or four days.

Only days ago Mr Primakov was in the same hospital and Mr Yeltsin has spent much of the year there, suffering from back pain.

Yevgeni Volk, director of the Heritage Foundation, a think-tank, said: "I am ready to believe that Boris Abramovich [Berezovsky] has a bad back, but lately there have been too many bad backs for my liking.

"Berezovsky could not seriously have remained abroad at the risk of being humiliatingly extradited, and his business interests in Russia are too great to abandon."

Mr Berezovsky's return is testimony that Mr Primakov's power is waning and that President Yeltsin is back at the helm. Many believe that Mr Berezovsky's immunity from prosecution is dependent on the tacit support of Mr Yeltsin.

Mr Volk said: "He is counting on Primakov stepping down soon, maybe next month after the impeachment proceedings against Yeltsin fail and until then he is just hoping to keep a low profile."

GEIR NAEVDAL

Stig Saegrov with Nikita. The 38-year-old fish died last month because too much salt water was put into its tank

Norway fishes for a Russian gift

Khrushchev, left of tank, hands over Nikita in 1964

NORWAY'S leading aquarium is to ask Boris Yeltsin for a new sturgeon to replace Nikita, a fish donated by the Kremlin in the 1960s, which has died from an overdose of salt water. Nikita was one of four fish given to Norway by Nikita Khrushchev in 1964 as a symbol of hope for better relations between the two neighbours. Staff at the Bergen Aquarium named it in his honour after it outlived the others. "We understand it's not top priority, but if Russia would be so kind as to give us a new sturgeon, we would be incredibly grateful," said Stig Saegrov, the aquarium's director. "We would call it Boris." Nikita was about 38 when it died. Sturgeons come from the Caspian Sea, which is not salty because of the many rivers that feed it.

Volga
Ural
200 miles
Astrakhan
KAZAKHSTAN
RUSSIA
Aral Sea
Caspian Sea
Baku
TURKMENISTAN
AZERBAIJAN
IRAN

Australia urged to intervene in Timor turmoil

BY DAVID WATTS

HUNDREDS of East Timorese fled the capital, Dili, overnight to escape the continuing purges of pro-independence supporters by armed gangs.

Aid agency sources believe the number of those who have disappeared into the mountains could be as high as 1,000. Pro-Indonesian militias have been focusing on two areas of Dili in their onslaught on pro-independence factions.

With the situation out of control, the Australian Government is under pressure to get the United Nations to intervene. Canberra has been criticised for not insisting that the Indonesian Government restrain its security forces.

John Howard, the Prime Minister, is to fly to a special summit with President Habibie of Indonesia within the next ten days, probably in Bali. Australians are bitter that nothing is being done to help a country that paid a high price to help defeat Japan in the Second World War.

"This is the time for Australia to honour the debt it owes the Timorese from World War Two," said José Ramos Horta, the Timorese who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Bishop Carlos Belo of East Timor.

Mr Ramos Horta called on Australians to take to the streets to protest at their Government's inaction. He asked Canberra to dispatch a mercy ship with food and medical supplies.

He also called for a boycott of Indonesian exports, a freezing of loans and of the assets of General Suharto, the former President, and Benny Murdani, the former intelligence chief, who he claimed was urging the hard line on East Timor.

Reports from New York indicate that the Indonesian offer of enhanced autonomy for the former Portuguese territory will be watered down when it is presented later this week at a meeting of the foreign ministers of Indonesia and Portugal.

Jakarta will demand that its army maintain a presence in the territory; that the police be linked to Indonesia's police; that it retains control of Timorese natural resources; and that East Timor will not be allowed any flag or state symbols of its own.

Leading article, page 25

WORLD IN BRIEF

Arafat is accused of electoral meddling

The Israeli Prime Minister has accused Yassir Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority, of interfering in Israel's election campaign on behalf of his main rival, Ehud Barak, the Labour Party leader (Christopher Walker writes).

Binyamin Netanyahu claimed that Mr Arafat was working behind the scenes to persuade Azmi Bishara, the first and only Israeli Arab candidate for Prime Minister, to drop out of the race and swing his Israeli Arab votes behind Mr Barak. Mr Netanyahu and Mr Barak are running neck and neck in opinion polls for the May 17 election and the Arab vote is vital.

Top Briton

New York: Mark Malloch Brown, a vice-president of the World Bank, will become the highest-ranking Briton in the history of the UN after being named head of its development programme.

Land feud toll

Lagos: Dozens of people have been killed and thousands displaced during clashes between two communities in Nigeria's eastern Anambra state. The feud, over land rights, began in 1995. *(AFP)*

Nazareth snub

Jerusalem: Israel, ignoring protests from the Vatican, has authorised the building of a mosque next to the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, one of Christendom's holiest shrines. *(AFP)*

Migrant deaths

Budapest: Twelve people were feared drowned in Hungary when a boat carrying illegal migrants capsized in the River Tisza. Border guards arrested 17 Afghan and five Pakistani survivors. *(Reuters)*

Death of Stoph

Berlin: The former Prime Minister of East Germany, Willy Stoph, has died at the age of 84. He was the country's leader from 1964 to 1973 and again from 1976 to 1989. *(AFP)*

Obituary, page 27

Gandhi ruling

Delhi: A playwright's plea for a new investigation into the 1948 assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, for which a Hindu fanatic was hanged, was rejected by the Indian Supreme Court. *(AFP)*

Lions rampant

Addis Ababa: A pride of lions has driven off a pack of hyenas after a bloody two-week battle in Ethiopia's Gobele desert. Six lions and 35 hyenas were killed, the state news agency reported. *(Reuters)*

French auctions 'inflating bids'

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

AS THE French authorities drag their feet over opening up the country's lucrative art market to international auction houses such as Sotheby's and Christie's, a well-known antiques dealer has accused auction houses here of inventing bids to inflate sale prices.

The accusations appear in a book by Hubert Duez, who writes a weekly antiques column in the respected Catholic daily newspaper, *La Croix*. Entitled *Secrets d' un Brocanteur*, the book lifts the lid on the French antiques trade.

M Duez reveals what he claims are widespread scams allegedly involving top French auctioneers, including Hôtel Drouot. According to M Duez, French auctioneers regularly pretend to take non-existent bids in crowded salerooms in order to force up the prices.

Thus, a buyer who would otherwise have obtained a vase after bidding, say, Fr1,000 (£105), ends up paying twice that after bidding against a fictitious rival.

Another trick allegedly in vogue is the removal of the most valuable item after the pre-sale viewing.

A spokeswoman at Drouot dismissed the accusations. "The confidence of our clients is the best proof that these things happen only very rarely. We do not wish to enter into an argument with a person who obviously understands very little about how auction rooms function," she said.

When Capitol kept its mouth shut

Ben Macintyre has a glimpse of pre-Monica morality in Washington

THE remains of a 19th-century bordello once frequented by American politicians, lobbyists and powerbrokers, have been uncovered only yards from Capitol Hill. The discovery is a *testament* to Washington's pre-Monica Lewinsky sexual morality.

Researchers digging on a grassy stretch of The Mall in the shadow of the Capitol have uncovered champagne bottles, gilt china and brickwork on the site of what was once a thriving brothel catering for "men of wealth and distinction".

The three-storey "parlour house", run by the redoubtable Mary Anne Hall, flourished throughout the Civil War and for many years afterwards without the slightest hint of scandal. It offered luxurious surroundings, complete discretion and women "noted for their youth, beauty and social refinement".

Ms Hall knew how to wield her influence. Her name never once appears in police files, and she retired a substantially wealthy woman after renting out her "parlour house" as a women's clinic.

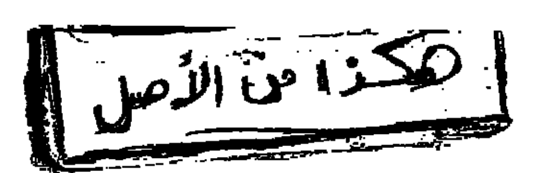
"She was obviously a successful, independent woman and she clearly maintained connections throughout her life," said Donna Seifert, who has unearthed the remnants of the former brothel.

Washington's premier madame also knew how to keep a secret, and precisely which senators, congressmen and other figures used her services has never been revealed.

"Unfortunately, we never found her little black book," Elizabeth Barthold O'Brien, another archaeologist working on the site, told *The New York Times*. The archaeologists said it was quite possible the prostitutes were also employed by lobbyists to influence legislators.

Houses of prostitution were not banned in Washington until 1914, and the bordello at 349 Maryland Avenue, with its imported carpets from Belgium and suites of furniture upholstered in red plush, was rated at the top of a list of 450 similar establishments in Washington drawn up by the Federal Provost Marshall's office in 1862.

Mary Hall died in 1886, aged 71. She was buried beneath a large tombstone in the Congressional cemetery and obituarists competed to sing her praises. *The Washington Evening Star* mourned the passing of a madame who kept her door always open, and her mouth closed.





Korea stages a royal pantomime

Alan Hamilton in Seoul sees actors *in traditional dress re-enact rituals* of the past in welcoming the Queen

KOREA was deprived of its ancient monarchy 89 years ago by the colonising Japanese, but it can still stage a respectable show of pomp to welcome a surviving member of the royal sisterhood, even if it means employing actors.

The honour guard drawn up on the lawn in front of the presidential residence in Seoul to receive the Queen at the start of her four-day state visit yesterday was colourful, numerous and well-drilled. The army, navy and air force contingents were real enough, and their band commendably familiar with the marching strains of that trusty parade ground warhorse *Old Comrades*.

But the contingent in the elaborate 15th-century red-and-blue parade dress of the Yi dynasty that was drawn up for the Queen's inspection, was in fact a group of thespians. At least they have regular work — to amuse tourists they have recently been employed to enact a daily changing of the guard at Seoul's old Royal Palace, where Princess Yi Pang Ja, the last survivor of the Korean Royal Family, died in 1989 at the age of 87.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were looking tired after an 11½-hour overnight flight from London, which is much to ask of a woman who will be 73 tomorrow and a man who will shortly be 78. They were driven from the airport in a top-of-the-range Daewoo. It was unfortunate timing, as at that very moment the cars manufacturer, one of Korea's main industrial conglomerates, was announcing a severe downsizing and disposal of fringe businesses.

Nor was it the best timing for President Kim Dae Jung, the Queen's host. He is facing the threat of a series of general strikes over the tough measures that he has implemented to revive the Korean economy after its collapse in 1997. The fiscal medicine has been painful, and there are still more than a million unemployed, but it appears to be working, with the first installment of a £38 billion IMF loan already repaid.



An actor dressed as a guard of the Yi dynasty

The President arrived separately in an open-topped Cadillac with security men hanging from the doors of his motorcade in true US Secret Service style. Given the 30,000 American troops stationed permanently in his country, such influence is difficult to avoid.

While President Clinton — who received an identical welcome on a recent visit — inhabits the White House, the Korean President lives in the Blue House, so named for the colour of the 160,000 tiles on its roof. The official residence looks traditional, but dates only from 1990; its grounds are nonetheless a haven of calm in an unlovely city of tower blocks slashed by choked ten-lane highways and susceptible to smog.

Queen and President inspected the honour guard, talked to children from Seoul's British school and were introduced to each other's suites. The Duke accompanied the Korean First Lady, Lee Hee Ho. The Queen's dress and that of Mrs Lee were just sufficiently different shades of pale blue.

Before entering the Blue House for an exchange of pleasantries that one Seoul newspaper yesterday billed excitedly as a summit meeting, the Queen and President Kim did a lap of honour around the lawn in the Cadillac, while a band of musicians in medieval dress playing 15th-century trumpets and drums performed an ancient and atonal air that sounded as if it had been lifted from the Sir Harrison Birtwistle songbook.

The ceremony, conducted in warm sunshine was televised live throughout the country, such is the importance the Koreans are placing on a state visit from an increasingly important trading partner. The ties have always been strong, if slow to be recognised by Britain. In 1953, a month before the truce, the country's then leader took time off from running the Korean War to attend the Queen's Coronation in London.

The Queen's first official duty, in common with all state visitors to Korea, was a more solemn one. She laid a wreath and cast three handfuls of incense into the eternal flame at the National Cemetery, which covers 343 acres and holds the remains of more than 102,000 war dead and other patriots, mainly Korea's own, but also many Vietnamese mercenaries. But one does not have to die in battle to gain admission; there is also a "Burial Plot for Meritorious Citizens".

During her reign, the Queen has seen enough traditional dancing to last several lifetimes. Yesterday afternoon she was offered something entirely different and very Korean — a breathtaking display by 60 children in a school gymnasium of the martial art of taekwondo, in which the principal weapons are the feet.

In a perfectly drilled and fast-moving show of prowess, children as young as seven leapt high into the air to smash blocks of wood held aloft by pyramids of their peers, or flew over a line of eight crouched comrades to shatter still more timber with their feet.

Midong Elementary School trains the cream of Korean kickers in a sport which its adherents say "not only teaches self-defence but also etiquette, self-control, the spirit of co-operation and obedience". The word is spreading: the World Taekwondo Federation now has 147 member countries. This year's World Finals are in Canada, and with taekwondo having been demonstrated at the Seoul Olympics in 1998, it will become an official sport at the Games in Sydney next year.

The Queen looked on in amazement, as though wondering whether a bodyguard of such agile youth might be a good way to preserve her own throne for its second millennium.

AHN YOUNG JOON / AP



The Queen arrives at the Midong Elementary School in Seoul, where 60 pupils laid on an acrobatic, timber-smashing display of taekwondo

La Niña fans fire towards Miami

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

FIREFIGHTERS in Florida are battling a blaze eight miles long that has scorched an estimated 100,000 acres of the Everglades National Park.

The fire has forced airline traffic to be diverted, closed main roads and threatened to cut electricity lines to Miami.

Southerly winds at the weekend caused panic in the city when the sky was blacked out for an hour by a cloud of heavy smoke.

The weather system La Niña has brought months of abnormally low rainfall that have left the Everglades dangerously dry. Florida lost 500,000 acres to brush fires last year, but it could be far worse this year.

"We're in very dangerous, high-burn conditions," said Frank Pocica, deputy chief of the state's fire services. Already this year more than 2,450 fires have burnt 130,000 acres.

Last week a sudden fire swept through the town of Port St Lucie, destroying 43 homes and damaging a further 33. Residents described a towering wall of fire rolling through like a huge wave, accompanied by the sound of an approaching train.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Delay on Kabila peace deal

Kinshasa: President Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo postponed for 24 hours an address that was expected to give details of a Libyan-brokered ceasefire in the republic's nine-month civil war. Libyan state media reports said that a deal signed by Mr Kabila and two other leaders raised hopes for an end to the conflict. *(Reuters)*

Look that killed

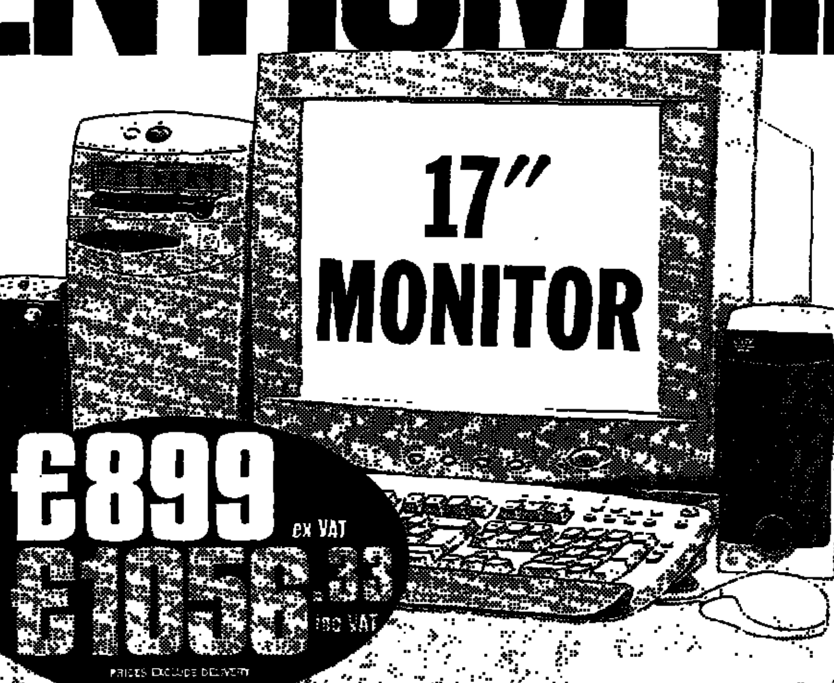
Seattle: Harminder Singh Virk, 54, who shot his daughter Ranjit, 18, seven times after she gave him a dirty look, was convicted of first-degree murder by a court in Kent, Washington. He faces a minimum of 25 years in jail. *(AP)*

Cranberry alert

Moscow: Russian authorities have seized 530lb of radioactive cranberries in Moscow markets, Tass news agency reported. The berries showed radiation levels 15 times higher than is safe. It did not say where they came from. *(AFP)*

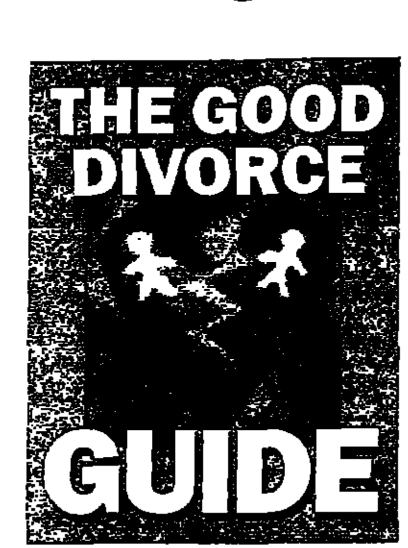
Volley of protest

Sydney: Residents of the suburb of Bondi have threatened to lie down in front of bulldozers to prevent an Olympic volleyball stadium being built on the beach. They say it will disrupt business and cause safety problems. *(AFP)*





How to find a path through the pain of divorce



In the first extract from her new book on surviving the break-up of a marriage, **Simone E. Katzenberg**, a family solicitor, details the seven stages of divorce, from breakdown and shock to acceptance


The breakdown of a relationship can take months or years. You drift apart, lose interest in each other, are constantly under stress and frequently

TELEGRAPH COLOUR LIBRARY

Do you want a divorce? Perhaps you do, but the prospect is frightening and you do not know where to turn. The questions are building up, consuming your every waking moment. Or perhaps you are adopting an ostrich-like approach: if you pretend it is not happening, it will go away.

You may be between the two: not happy, just finding life dull as you wait for some life-changing event to transport you from the mundane to an exotic, carefree existence. Or you may have met someone else and be one of those people who marches into a solicitor's office and says: "I want it to be quick. I want it to be cheap. I want it to be amicable."

It is not that simple. In reality you are lucky if even one of these aims is achieved. The work of the solicitor is only a small part of the process that leads to divorce. The other part, the emotional one, is more difficult — but until both of you have acknowledged and worked through the emotional stages, you will find it impossible to negotiate settlements or to finalise legal proceedings.

I believe there are seven emotional stages to divorce that *everyone* will experience. By being aware of these — and of how difficult they will be — you can consider whether there is a way to save a relationship rather than leaving when the going gets tough.

BREAKDOWN

The breakdown of a relationship can take months or years. You drift apart, lose interest in each other, are constantly under stress and frequently cannot be bothered to talk to each other. You may stop sleeping together, and intimacy you shared ceases. You may row endlessly or not talk to each other for days. You may mentally switch off as soon as the other starts to talk, your mind wandering in a fantasy world.

> You drift apart and lose interest in each other

The catalyst will often be an affair or one argument too many. This may precipitate discussion about the "D" word, a word you are frightened to articulate, yet you feel the inevitability of it creeping upon you.

The decision to separate and perhaps to divorce is an extremely difficult one. You will change your mind over and over again. Do not despair: it is quite usual to feel confused.

You want to be certain that you have explored all the alternatives and that if you decide to separate and ultimately to divorce, it is the only option open to you.

During this stage I would recommend that if there is any prospect of resolving your differences, you try to do so. You are likely to need the help of an independent third party in the form of counselling. Although you need to inform family and friends of the situation, it is sometimes better not to tell them all the reasons for the breakdown, primarily because they will take sides, advise you and judge your partner. Stick to the professionals for advice. We know our areas of expertise; we do not judge you and, because we are not involved with you, we can provide sound advice.

Contacting a solicitor need not sound the death knell of your marriage. The first meeting with a solicitor is usually a fact-finding exercise, an opportunity to ascertain your rights, to discuss what to expect and to determine the possible outcome. This enables you to make an informed decision when you are ready. The worst possible thing anyone can do is to act on impulse.

This is the longest stage and perhaps the most difficult. It is frightening and lonely. At this time my advice is: if in doubt, don't. One day you will wake up and find that you have made the decision, be it to stay together and work it out, or to separate. Take whatever time you need and do not let others rush you.

Spitting venom: anger will strike out of the blue and can be explosive

SHOCK

Facing up to the fact that there is no prospect of reconciling your differences leaves you in a state of shock. You may wander around in a daze, become absent-minded and careless and are likely to lurch from one emotion to another and back again. You cry, you scream, you shout, you withdraw at times. You go to bed exhausted by worry; you sleep restlessly and wake with a dull ache that does not go away.

Tell those close to you what is happening, although it is preferable to discuss the more intricate details with a counsellor who will not take sides.

Concentrate on small, everyday tasks. There is no short cut; one day you will wake up feeling stronger and start picking up the pieces of your life.

ANGER

Anger will strike out of the blue and can be explosive. You are unable to say your partner's name without spitting venom. You want your partner to come back crying and begging for forgiveness only so that you can reject him or her and your partner can know how it feels.

You swing from dreaming of revenge and pure anger to feeling sad and insecure. During the troughs you convince yourself that you are entirely to blame, even though in moments of rational thought you know that is not true.

Without warning, something or someone will trigger you and you are likely to react in an uncharacteristic and often regrettable way. It is during these explosive episodes that you need someone for you, someone who will not judge you, criticise you or fire you up. The temptation to use the children or money as an excuse for further anger and revenge is ever-present. This should be avoided at all costs. Don't prevent the children from seeing the other parent or stop paying money as a way of punishing your partner. All this will do is to make the separation more acrimonious.

You may not always be able to control your anger. But if you understand what is happening, you will be able to reflect and act rather than reacting thoughtlessly.

PAIN

By now you probably know whether there is a chance of reconciliation or if a divorce is inevitable. Remember that at any time until decree absolute, if you both want to reconcile you can and should do so. Your anger will have abated, although it will still erupt from time to time, and your confidence will have hit an all-time low. What takes the place of anger is deep pain. If you have separated, the pain will gradually decrease in intensity and frequency. You will find that short periods of time will pass when you have concentrated on the task before you and have not thought about your partner.

You want everything to happen fast. Yet it drags on, solicitors' letters going backwards and forwards, always asking for more information.

Your partner may appear to be ready to negotiate, whereas in reality he or she is playing mind games and using delaying tactics. You may feel at the end of your tether.

Another big area of conflict can revolve around meeting the "other" person.

Wherever possible, any new person should be introduced to the children with careful planning and sensitivity. It will be difficult for them to accept anyone new, particularly if that person is depicted as evil and

'Will I ever see mummy again?'

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

IN RECENT years divorced parents have been denied the emotional comfort of the standard defence — that it was better for a child to grow up apart from one parent than to live with two quarrelling ones.

Within limits, an unhappy domestic atmosphere, or one chilled by the lack of loving communication between parents, is not, it seems, as damaging for children as being, as they see it, abandoned by one or the other parent and thus deprived of a complete household. At every family occasion the absence of one parent is achingly obvious and highlights a child's deprivation. In any context children don't like being different, and don't like their friends being different.

Children are acutely aware of tensions between parents, and the latter delude themselves if they think that by refraining from throwing plates at each other their problems will not be noticed by observant two and three-year-olds. Snide remarks, meaningful silences and a general lack of easy communication are picked up by children of all ages. They feel the pain felt by their parents and are more likely to become quiet and withdrawn when younger, delinquent when older.

Children need both parents not only to provide plenty of love, support, attention and reassurance but also as role models whom they can admire and emulate. Upset little children are not only withdrawn but are also clinging, irritable, demanding, attention-seeking and, frankly, maddening. At these times a young child needs the security provided by additional love and reassurance, however unappealingly they may be behaving. Older children, when they feel miserable and neglected, are adept at demonstrating all the most trying aspects of teenagers.

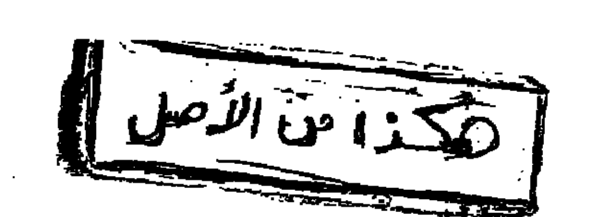
The authors of *Child Health*, edited by Professor David Baum and Dr Susanna Graham-Jones, suggest that the response of children varies according to their age. Even toddlers notice the absence of a parent and, when older, the pre-school child becomes concerned about that parent's physical welfare. Will Daddy — for it is usually Daddy — be warm, have food? Worst horror of all — and a common anxiety in small children — will he die? Even when parents are separated from small children for a short time, sooner or later the plaintive voice of insecurity is heard: "Will I ever see Mummy again?" Worries of death and disaster become greater as the child grows older, and with these increasing anxieties comes guilt that they may have been responsible for the break-up. Occasionally problems surrounding children are a small factor, but more commonly in family quarrels parents may use children as weapons in their mutually destructive war.

AS schoolchildren become adolescent, so they are increasingly involved in matrimonial strife. Some may take sides spontaneously; often, so far as a bystander can judge, unreasonably; but in other cases they are deliberately brought in by the parents.

Whatever the child's age it is important for parents to explain that they would much rather have kept the family together if it had been possible, that they will continue to see them as much as can be arranged, and above all that the divorce is not their fault and does not express any lack of love for them. These messages must be spelt out simply and often, however banal they may sound when delivered to a sullen, unhappy teenager.

Older children need to be dissuaded from taking sides: to achieve this, parents should save any criticism of their erstwhile mate for confidants. However tearful and upset they may feel, sobbing, shouting and door-banging must remain private indulgences, to be resorted to only when the children are out of the house. When the children are at home the house must, in the interests of reducing hostilities, become neutral territory where partisanship and recriminations are not allowed. Parents must also understand *that a child's desire to see the* other parent does not represent disloyalty, but merely a desire to maintain the remnants of the status quo. For years after a divorce children will continue to plot and pray for a reconciliation.

There is little place for the contents of the medicine chest when dealing with the fallout from a divorce but it should be remembered that an emotional crisis of this sort can precipitate a depressive illness in a child — and depression in childhood and adolescence is much more common than is realised and may require medication.



TONY STONE IMAGES



cannot be bothered to talk to each other. You may stop sleeping together, and intimacy you shared ceases. You may row endlessly or not talk for days

TONY STONE IMAGES



Your thoughts are filled with ways in which to punish your soon-to-be ex-partner

wicked. Rest assured, no one can ever replace you. Try not to let your feelings towards your partner affect contact. Continued contact is so important for your children. This stage often passes in a couple of months.

HATRED

While this is the worst stage, it is also the turning point. It is an accumulation of events and the apparent lack of progress that make you feel rage. You would gladly give up everything and start life with a new identity in a new country. *Your thoughts are filled with* ways in which to punish your soon-to-be ex-partner. You have forgotten what it is like not to struggle emotionally and financially. Even if it was your choice, you hate your partner for making you struggle and *suffer, for disrupting* the children.

You will feel frustrated by your contrasting emotions: you want to move on, yet you are still tied to the past. *Although the end may be in* sight, one or both of you may not yet be ready for the finality of divorce. This is the crux of the process: the combination of *hatred, fear and* sense of loss means *that each time you* get close to settlement, one or both of you sabotages it.

> The fight has gone, to be replaced by the will to survive

It would be foolhardy to withdraw reasonable proposals or to demand *unrealistic* deadlines. It is costly both emotionally and financially when an agreement cannot be reached and the outcome is determined by the court.

But given time you will become war-weary. You will want to solve the problems more than you want to continue fighting. Your aggression will start to feel like a waste of *energy. You may be willing to* allow the children to spend a night, a weekend or even a week with the other parents, and you will realise that without noticing, you have moved on from the hatred stage.

GRIEF

The fight in you has gone, to be replaced by the will to survive. You now want the finality that divorce will bring.

You may be so fed up that you cannot be bothered to argue any longer and wonder why you became so wound up about keeping the silver candlesticks that you didn't even want. Often at this stage it all seems suddenly to *click into place. Facing up to* the end of a marriage gives you the chance to mourn its loss. If you are not used to sharing emotions, you may find it difficult to cry and feel sorry *without feeling weak or bad. It* sometimes helps to write a letter that you would like to send to your partner, even if you never intend to send it.

ACCEPTANCE

The final stage is often an anticlimax. You will have accepted the divorce and may be entrenched in a new lifestyle. Sadly, for some the acrimony continues long after the legalities have been concluded because one or both of the parties is emotionally stuck at one of the previous stages.

It is important that you concentrate on your own wellbeing and do not get drawn back into destructive patterns of behaviour. If you start to feel drawn in emotionally, go back to your counsellor or *make an appointment to see* one. If it is a legal matter, pass it back to your solicitor.

If there are children, you and your ex-partner will still have to see each other. If you *cannot face each other by now,* don't. Make arrangements so that direct contact between you is avoided. In time you may become friends or lose *contact altogether.*

You will have established new routines, made new friends and developed new interests. There will be times when you still feel sad and angry, but that is to be expected.

● *British Assocation of Counselling: 01788 578328.*

Extracted from I Want a Divorce? *by Simone E. Katzenberg, published on May 6 by Kyle Cathie, £9.99. Copyright 1999 Simone E. Katzenberg. Times readers can order this title for £7.99 with free p&p by calling The Times Bookshop on 0990 134459.*

HOW TO FIND A SOLICITOR

IT IS important that you *have confidence in and* a good working relationship with your solicitor so that you can express your wishes and concerns. Your solicitor needs to be accessible and understanding, yet firm enough to guide you when you veer off the planned path.

A solicitor can and should adopt an objective approach — avoid those who are aggressive for the sake of it. Unharnessed aggression of a client, encouraged and supported by a solicitor, leads only to trouble, both emotionally and financially.

Most important of all choose an experienced family solicitor. Do not go to an old family friend, or your godfather's brother. Family law is a specialised area of law and having a solicitor who is not experienced in this area can only be to your detriment. *Sensible* negotiations may prove to *be impossible, costs may be* incurred unnecessarily, information may be refused and realistic proposals rejected because an inexperienced adviser does not know the rules and won't follow procedures.

Personal recommendations can be a good starting point, your counsellor may recommend a solicitor, or contact the Solicitor's Family Law Association (PO Box 302, Orpington, Kent BR6 8QX; 01689 850227) and ask them to recommend experienced family solicitors in your area.

Above all, do not enter into any negotiations with your partner or sign *anything* before you have taken legal advice, even though you may feel guilty or bullied.

It is more difficult to extricate yourself from a bad agreement than to start *negotiations from scratch.*

'I love to hear couples say that they've been married for ever'

Solicitor Simone E. Katzenberg on her insights into divorce. Interview by **Moira Petty**

The day she saw three divorcing husbands, *one after the other,* each irrational with rage, thoughts at the back of the solicitor Simone Katzenberg's mind coalesced. "These three men were angry and shouting that they were going to leave the country," she says. "I realised that they were going through the same emotions."

It was then that she decided to write her book, *I Want a Divorce?*, tracking the emotional fallout of divorce as well as the legal niceties. The empirical observations of more than 15 years in the divorce arena enabled her to identify seven emotional stages through which all her fraught clients passed.

"It was all there in my head," says Mrs Katzenburg, 43, a partner in the solicitor's firm Ross & Craig, in the West End of London. She had three aims in mind. The first was to prepare divorce virgins for what would follow: "I found that it's more difficult for them than they think it will be."

Secondly, she wanted to reassure them that the horrors would pass. "When they think they're going mad and coping worse than anyone else, I want to give them hope that it will end."

Her third wish is to put people off divorcing where possible, and suggests counselling or mediation. "I don't want them to think later: 'if only I'd tried harder'. Divorce is never the soft option. I'm pleased if they can save their marriage."

Mrs Katzenberg believes that all divorcing couples go through the seven emotional stages (breakdown, shock, anger, pain, hatred, grief, acceptance), although not necessarily at the same time or speed. The process can take from two to five years. Being in tune with the clients' and the partners' emotional states helps her to deal more effectively with the legalities.

"Quickie divorce" is a phrase she hates because it reflects only the legal, not the emotional, journey. The most dangerous stage is anger, when actions can range from mean-mindedness to criminal damage. "I try to find out how likely they are to blow up. They can be so vicious that they do things like cutting the *arms off a partner's suit.* They confess they've done something terrible, but didn't want to call me because I would have talked them out of it. Some send e-mails to everybody they know listing all the terrible things their partner *has done. I had a case where* the wife refused to give her husband his belongings. She left them in binbags out in the rain. That maliciousness doesn't achieve anything."

GILL ALLEN



Inside knowledge: Simone Katzenberg

Mrs Katzenberg has been happily married to an accountant since 1982 and they have three sons, Joshua, 14, Gideon, 11, and Ethan, six. They moved from their native South Africa to London in 1986 and Mrs Katzenberg had to requalify. She sat her law exams in Nottingham, *taking her young* baby and toddler with her. "I knew no one when I came to Britain and couldn't have coped without the support of my husband."

When she was first articled to a divorce lawyer in Johannesburg, *she was shocked by* the intensity of feuding couples' feelings. She would like to see MoTs for marriages and thinks that those most in danger were entered into for the wrong reasons — pregnancy, on the rebound, or to leave home. "*Nothing surprises me* now," she says. The worst cases are when the children are dragged in, although she says: "It's hard to be an ideal divorcing parent. I've known fathers who have gone to pick up the kids and been left sitting in the car for ages. She will block him when he rings up to speak to them. Or she might stick her hand out of the *door and tell him* that he can't take the kids out unless she gets more money.

"The fathers can be just as difficult, flaunting the new girlfriend, arriving too early or late, or saying they've no money *and turning up in a* fancy new sports car."

There are gender differences. "Men love spreadsheets. I've never had a woman bring one in detailing the finances. I *understand if a poor* frazzled woman who's never opened a chequebook empties a binliner of documents in front of me but it's cheaper if you are organised."

In the case of elderly couples married for a long time, Mrs Katzenberg has only ever seen wives ending the marriage. "They say: 'I can't bear to look at him *any longer'." For others,* 40th or 50th birthdays are often a trigger for divorce, as are the children leaving home. Often one partner will have been planning it for five or ten years, *while the* other will be "white-faced with shock". Adultery is a symptom rather than a cause of a bad marriage: "They're vulnerable, then meet someone who gives them the courage to leave."

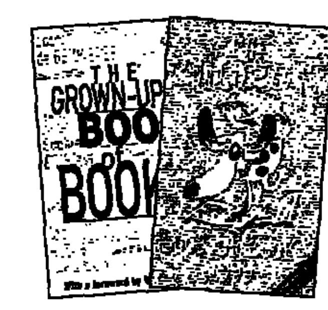
Divorced clients can become dependent on the solicitor to whom they pour out their woes. "Some say 'what will I do without you to talk to?' I tell *them, 'you'll find something* else and it won't cost you as much. I'd rather see a settlement and let them enjoy the benefits.

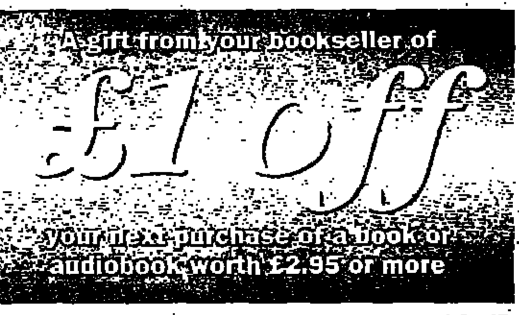
"The court is never the place for revenge. I tell clients the best revenge on the partner *is to make a new life for* themselves and be happy."

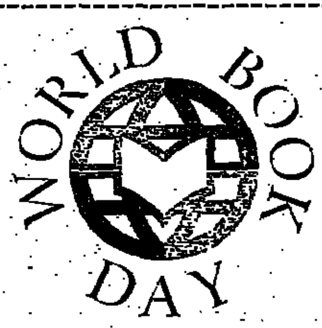
Spending her days immersed in the worst of marriages does not cast her in gloom. "I never see the happy ones at work so I just love it when I meet couples socially *and they tell me how they've* been married for ever."

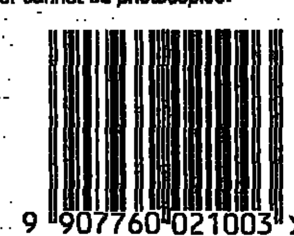
TOMORROW

HOW TO TELL THE CHILDREN: they need to know that their parents are divorcing each other, not divorcing themselves from the children









Individual strength is what counts, says **John O'Leary**

How to choose the course that suits best

Rankings of whole universities are useful as a guide to the standing of your chosen place of study, but it is the strength of individual courses that matter most to applicants. Even top universities have their weak points, and generally modest performers have centres of excellence.

The subject tables published over the next two days make those distinctions in 17 academic areas where English teaching assessments have been completed in the past year. Today's cover the arts and social sciences, bringing recognition in different subjects to Keele and Kingston as well as Oxford and Cambridge.

Each university is judged on a combination of teaching and research and entry grades. The tables weight the three factors to mirror our overall university ranking, so the funding councils' assessments of teaching quality carry a weighting of 2.5, research grades 1.5, and the average A-level grades of entrants 1.

The system recognises the importance to applicants of the teaching ratings, which take into account the strength of the curriculum, student support and guidance, library facilities and quality assurance, as well as the standard of lecturing. Carried out by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) on behalf of the three higher education funding councils, each assessment is available on paper or via the QAA's website *(http://www.qaa.ac.uk)*

Because the assessments are carried out on a rolling programme, some subjects, including high-profile examples such as medicine and biology, are yet to be completed in England. To complicate matters further, the separate bodies for Scotland and Wales have approached subjects in a different order, so a few departments that would have featured in today's tables are yet to be assessed.

Though all three countries now use the same rating system, this may not survive the new round of inspections due to commence in 2001. Partly to stop the compilation of league tables, university vice-chancellors have been pressing for numerical grades to be abandoned. So far, ministers have resisted such a change, but the shape of future reports is still uncertain.

Trials of different forms of reporting are taking place in three subjects and 21 institutions. John Randall, the QAA's chief executive, said: "There are conflicting pressures. It may be the end of the year before we reach agreement."

Today's subject tables bring the total included in the paperback version of *The Times Good University Guide* to 41. The full set will also be available on *The Times* website *(http://www.the-times.co.uk)*. There are only marginal changes to those published last year because the teaching and research assessments for those subjects have not changed. Among the arts and social sciences, Cambridge remains ahead in anthropology, with the London School of Economics, Manchester and Brunel close together in the following places. Cambridge is also the leader in architecture, with Sheffield second.

Businesss has the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology at the top of the table, followed by Lancaster, Warwick and the London School of Economics. Oxford is top for English, with University College London and Cambridge next. The positions are reversed for French, with Cambridge first and Oxford second.

Cambridge also leads the history table, which has Warwick in second place and King's College London third. Iberian languages continue Cambridge's domination, although Queen Mary and Westfield College, Birmingham and Aberdeen are not far behind.

The story is repeated in Italian, with Cambridge top and Exeter second. Cambridge pips Oxford to top place for law, but London University's School of Oriental and African Studies is top-rated for music, with neighbouring King's College next.

Sheffield is the clear leader for Russian, with Cambridge in second place. The London School of Economics beats Loughborough to the head of the table in social policy, while Lancaster and York share the top spot in social work. Warwick is well ahead of the field for sociology, with Edinburgh, Sussex and Loughborough next.

IN THE GUIDE TOMORROW

Eight new tables for science and engineering. Plus the value of work experience



Bridging the gap: a Kingston University student goes into action by the Thames

SEVENTEEN NEW SUBJECT TABLES, COVERING THE ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

AMERICAN STUDIES

■ Keele comes in top in this first-ever ranking for American studies, ahead of traditional bastions of the subject such as East Anglia. Both universities score a maximum 24 for their teaching assessment, a feat also matched by Central Lancashire.

Birmingham, ranked seventh, sets the highest standards for entry at 27 A-level points. No university in the list scores a 5*, the top grade for the research assessment exercise, but Keele, Nottingham and Sussex all do well on 5.

Only 13 universities offer American studies. The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education assessors noted that with some providers the small number of first-class degrees was a disappointment. Keele avoids being tarred with this brush because a significant part of its success is the high proportion of students achieving good results. In 1997 just short of 10 per cent of finals candidates achieved firsts and more than 60 per cent upper seconds. Mature students scored particularly highly.

University	Score
1 Keele	100
2 Nottingham	90.21
3 Sussex	88.3
4 East Anglia	84.96
5 Reading	79.89
6 Hull	79.52
7 Birmingham	79.51
8 Kent	75.73
9 Cent Lancashire	71.09
10 Middlesex	70.11
11 Brunel	68.81
12 Wolverhampton	67.12
13 Swansea	46.31

DRAMA, DANCE & CINEMATICS

■ Five universities achieved maximum points in the assessment of teaching quality for drama, dance and cinematics. But Warwick's high grading for research and the equivalent of an A and two Bs at A level for every entrant secured top place.

Royal Holloway, the London University college in Egham, Surrey, could have pipped Warwick as the only department to record a maximum score in the last research assessments. But one dropped point for teaching quality left it in second place. A lack of space for practical activities was the only blemish in an otherwise glowing report.

With an impressive and busy arts centre as the centrepiece of its campus, Warwick is an appropriate winner. The assessors' report on the theatre and performance studies degree said there was a "stimulating learning environment supported by the culture of research and artistic activity in the school and university".

Of the other top scorers in the teaching assessments, Lancaster, Hull and Kent all have high entrance requirements. But Reading's entrants averaged fewer than three Cs at A level. Manchester had the highest A-level score, but in a generally high-scoring teaching assessment, a relatively modest 21 points out of 24 left the university out of the top ten. Glamorgan, in tenth place, was the best-placed new university.

The subjects are increasingly popular, showing increased applications this year. There were already about ten applications to every place, with the ratio for some specialised courses reaching almost 50:1.

University	Score
1 Warwick	94.67
2 Royal Holloway	93.38
3 Lancaster	89.29
4 Hull	87.53
5 Bristol	86.22
6 Kent	83.19
7 Brunel	82.04
8 Reading	81.62
9 Exeter	79.78
10 Glamorgan	79.70
11 Manchester	78.93
12 Queen Mary	78.60
13 Loughborough	76.74
14 Birmingham	76.43
15 Goldsmiths	74.71
16 North London	70.32
17 Manchester Met	68.80
18 East Anglia	67.60
19 Surrey	65.88
20 Ulster	65.70

HISTORY OF ART

■ Despite missing out on the top research score, University College London was a clear leader in the first ranking for history of art. It was one of three London colleges to achieve a perfect rating for teaching quality.

UCL incorporates the Slade School of Fine Art and there are exchange links with European universities. The assessors described the college's courses as being "at the cutting edge of the discipline".

The School of Oriental and African Studies also registered a maximum score for teaching quality and matched UCL for research. Birkbeck College completed the London triumverate but, as a specialist institution for part-time students, does not appear in this guide.

Second-placed Cambridge and Sussex, tenth, were top-rated for research. Edinburgh's students were the best-qualified on entry. Five universities were still to be inspected when the Higher Education Funding Council for England produced its report on the subject: Leeds, Plymouth, Sunderland, Teesside and Thames Valley.

A total of 37 universities and colleges were included in the HEFCE's report and the subject has also been assessed in Scotland.

University	Score
1 UCL	94.76
2 Cambridge	89.58
3 SOAS	89.41
4 Nottingham	82.02
5 Leeds	81.26
6 Reading	80.45
7 Essex	79.52
8 East Anglia	78.40
9 Warwick	78.20
10 Sussex	77.10
11 Edinburgh	76.85
12 York	76.70
13 Manchester	76.40
14 St Andrews	74.73
15 Birmingham	73.51
16 Kent	72.36
17 Oxford Brookes	70.89
18 Leicester	69.88
19 Middlesex	67.36
20 Staffordshire	66.02

LAND & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

■ Though new universities dominate the list of institutions offering Land & Property Management, Reading and Cambridge put in a good showing at second and third place respectively.

Kingston's lead is helped by its outstanding mark for teaching quality — a standard matched by no other course. It is praised for its rich interdisciplinary approach and for encouraging its students to acquire transferable skills. At the same time, its courses were found to "engage students in group work encouraging effective communication and time management skills, and students are encouraged to apply information technology."

Unfortunately, research is not rated highly at any of the institutions that offer land & property management.

The assessors conclude that almost all institutions provide a good learning environment for students. Typically, courses foster close relations with the profession and 80 per cent of graduates go on to find work within the profession.

The early 1990s recession in property and construction caused a fall in the demand for these subjects. As a result, the most popular courses have maintained the size of their intake and the qualifications expected of it, while others have diversified to create a much wider range of opportunity within the field.

University	Score
1 Kingston	83.40
2 Reading	83.10
3= Cambridge	73.51
3= Liverpool JMU	73.51
5 Greenwich	73.21
6 Oxford Brookes	72.57
7 City	63.36
8 De Montfort	63.19
9 Portsmouth	58.36
10 Leeds Metropolitan	57.75
11 West of England	56.95
12 Sheffield Hallam	51.36
13 Westminster	48.81
14 Anglia	44.10
15 Staffordshire	40.81
16 South Bank	38.58
17 Central England	36.35

TOWN PLANNING & LANDSCAPE

■ The town planning & landscape table overlaps with that for land and property management, providing a second triumph for Kingston University.

Kingston was one of two universities in our table to achieve maximum points for teaching quality. It vied with Oxford Brookes, the other top scorer, in polytechnic days, for recognition as the leading institution in the field. Oxford's lower entrance qualifications made the difference in this ranking.

Kingston's assessment covered six elements of the university's modular degree scheme, including landscape architecture, quantity surveying and property studies. Three quarters of the sessions observed reached the top mark and the assessors stressed the good progression to employment or further study.

Second-placed Cardiff had the best research record in our top 20, and Sheffield, in third place was the most difficult department to get into. One university, Northumbria, was still to be assessed when the Higher Education Funding Council for England published its report on the subject.

Competition between new and old universities is much more even in this area than in most of the others assessed so far. Eight former polytechnics feature in the top 20.

University	Score
1 Kingston	93.73
2 Cardiff	89.61
3 Sheffield	88.78
4 Liverpool	84.08
5 Reading	81.84
6 Oxford Brookes	76.53
7 Salford	76.25
8 Nottingham	74.51
9 Newcastle	73.03
10 Aberdeen	67.04
11 Queens Belfast	66.70
12 Manchester	63.71
13 West of England	60.27
14 South Bank	58.83
15 Leeds Metropolitan	58.72
16 Sheffield Hallam	57.73
17 Dundee	56.62
18 Strathclyde	56.51
19 Coventry	55.84
20 De Montfort	54.51



Quality test

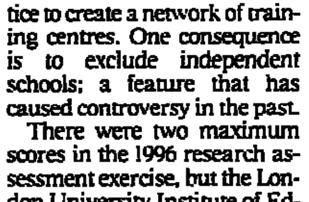
John Randall, Quality Assurance Agency chief executive, is experimenting with new methods of reporting on the quality of teaching in universities.

EDUCATION

■ Oxford tops the first education ranking to appear in the guide after achieving the best score of all the teacher training departments in its Ofsted inspection.

The ranking uses Ofsted reports in place of the normal Quality Assurance Agency assessments, aggregating them in the normal way with the latest research grades and A-level scores. Oxford achieved a near-perfect 23.5 from Ofsted to reach the top.

Oxford's education department has a novel approach to training, placing eight students at a time in each of the schools used for teaching practice to create a network of training centres. One consequence is to exclude independent schools; a feature that has caused controversy in the past.



There were two maximum scores in the 1996 research assessment exercise, but the London University Institute of Education does not appear in the guide because it has no undergraduate courses and is a wholly specialist institution. King's College London, the other leading research centre, is relegated to 18th place because of a disappointing Ofsted score and low entry qualifications.

Only one new university, Brighton, is included among the top 20. Its Ofsted score was bettered only by Oxford and second-placed East Anglia.

University	Score
1 Oxford	94.64
2 East Anglia	91.93
3 Birmingham	83.60
4 Sheffield	81.67
5 Cambridge	80.51
6 Cardiff	79.16
7 Durham	78.34
8 Manchester	74.44
9 Warwick	73.77
10 Newcastle	73.67
11 Stirling	72.51
12 York	72.48
13 Leeds	69.26
14 Exeter	69.21
15 Bristol	66.36
16 Brighton	65.14
17 Sussex	63.47
18 Kings Coll	62.16
19 Ulster	60.37
20 Reading	59.92

MIDDLE EASTERN & AFRICAN STUDIES

■ There is little to choose between the two universities at the top of the table. Ironically, Birmingham loses out because it offers a first degree in the subject, whereas its inclusion in a wider programme at Cambridge means that the A-level score is averaged from the university's teaching and research assessments.

Birmingham had the better research record, achieving the only five-star grade for the subjects, but entrance qualifications averaging just over two Bs and a D were well below the Cambridge norm. Middle Eastern and African studies is confined to a select group of mainly traditional universities. None was awarded less than 20 out of 24 points for teaching quality and only at Leeds was most research judged to be less than nationally excellent.

University	Score
1 Cambridge	94.64
2 Birmingham	94.57
3 Oxford	87.54
4 Durham	82.26
5 London, SOAS	79.15
6 Edinburgh	74.29
7 Manchester	72.95
8 Exeter	66.91
9 Leeds	65.48

EAST & SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

■ Oxford and Cambridge dominate the league table for East and South Asian Studies, with Cambridge picking up an impressive 100 points overall. Cambridge does better for its teaching, but Oxford's 5* for research is unrivalled by any other institution.

Leeds and SOAS score as highly as Cambridge for their teaching, as does the one new university represented on the list, the University of Westminster. Leeds and SOAS were awarded equally high scores for teaching and research, but it is notable that SOAS demands eight fewer A-level points.

Only ten universities offer East and South Asian studies. The course attracts mature and non-European Union students. Final results are impressive, with an average of 66 per cent of students across all institutions obtaining a first or upper second-class degree.

At Cambridge these statistics are even better. In 1993-94, more than 70 per cent of students achieved an upper second or higher, almost a quarter of whom obtained a first.

University	Score
1 Cambridge	100
2 Oxford	89.74
3 Leeds	87.82
4 SOAS	86.97
5 Hull	82.43
6 Durham	80.16
7 Edinburgh	78.48
8 Sheffield	77.43
9 Westminster	75.19
10 Stirling	66.67

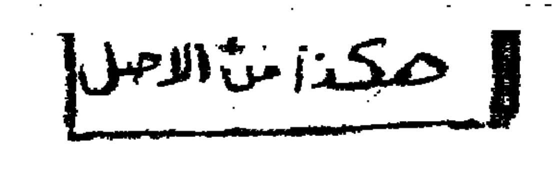
COMMUNICATION & MEDIA STUDIES

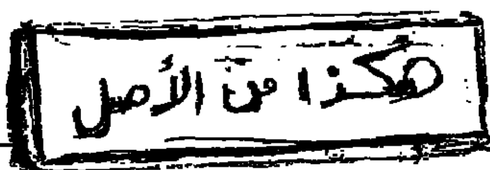
■ Warwick and East Anglia carry off the honours in the competitive arena of media studies, scoring equally highly for teaching and research. Westminster achieved impressive results in both areas: 23 points for its teaching and 5 for its research. No institution gains a 5* for research, but Warwick, East Anglia, Sussex, Westminster and Stirling all rate highly on 5.

The list of top ten media courses is made up largely of established universities, but three new universities are represented — Westminster at fourth place; Bristol, West of England at fifth; and Central Lancashire is in seventh place. Warwick received particular praise for its outstanding technical resources and for the appeal that its research record has in attracting students. Over the past five years, half of Warwick's graduates have found employment in the media industry.

University	Score
1 Warwick	100.00
2 East Anglia	95.84
3 Sussex	89.30
4 Westminster	89.23
5 Bristol, W of England	84.70
6 Birmingham	83.47
7 Central Lancashire	80.48
8 Leeds	80.45
9 London, Goldsmiths	79.09
10 Leicester	78.32
11 Stirling	77.06
12 Napier	74.82
13 Ulster	73.93
14 Brunel	71.09
15 Nottingham Trent	69.92
16 South Bank	68.67
17 Liverpool JMU	66.50
18 Glasgow Caledonian	63.59
19 Sunderland	63.16
20 Sheffield Hallam	61.19

Winner: Warwick's arts centre, said to be the biggest single arts complex outside London



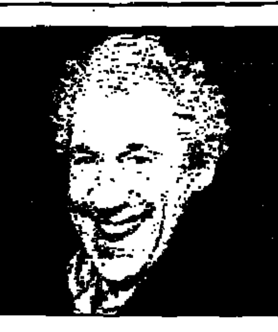




CONCERTS
Basingstoke goes wild for Kennedy
PAGE 22

THE TIMES
ARTS

MUSICALS
What's Simon Callow doing in pajamas?
PAGE 23



American critics are unsure about Eddie Murphy's role in *Life*: is this a comedy or a drama? **Giles Whittell** reports

This time, can Eddie really be serious?

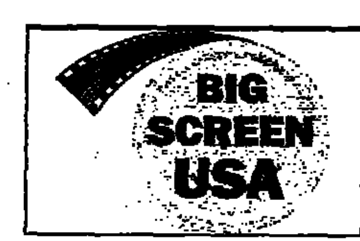
Eddie Murphy is *such* a decent fellow. A couple of years ago he was kind enough to stop his Landcruiser at 4.45am on a stretch of Santa Monica Boulevard known for its transvestite prostitutes. He gave "this Hawaiian-looking woman" nothing more suspicious than "a lift", but still had to explain himself to a pair of heartless vice cops and, in due course, the world.

Now, when all we expected of him was to make us giggle for another hour or two, he has delivered something more than comedy: something *The Washington Post* called "an essay on endurance and dignity" and perhaps even "a tribute to those who came before him". That would be a tribute to the slaves who cleared and planted the American South, apparently.

It's a stretch, but it shows what a terrible time the critics have had trying to pin down *Life*, a film that announced itself in its trailers as a flat-out commercial farce, but turns out to be a story of two wrongful murder convictions in Mississippi followed by life sentences enlivened by sodomy, forced labour and a shoot-to-kill policy for would-be escapers. No wonder *Life* has been compared to *Life is Beautiful*, Roberto Benigni's "comedy" about the Holocaust.

Murphy arrived in showbiz as a motormouth: the Ben Elton of New York stand-up. Starting in 1982, he took Hollywood by storm with three major hits in as many years — *48 Hours*, *Trading Places* and *Beverly Hills Cop*. The question hanging over his pampered head ever since has been whether he can recapture the raucous brilliance of that blue streak, or at least subordinate his ego to it for long enough to make a film. For years the answer seemed to be no; just look at the *Beverly Hills Cop* sequels. Then came the Good Samaritan drive-by. Few believed it was an "act of kindness" that got him into such trouble with the prostitute, and the question became whether his career would survive at all.

Miraculously, it did. *The Nutty Professor* made $128 million in America alone and, when asked about his allegedly bisexual proclivities, Murphy issued loud denials



that few were brave enough to challenge to his face.

Now the question is more edifying: can we accept Detective Axel Foley as a tragi-comic chronicler of the 20th century using an inmate in a segregated prison camp as his mouthpiece? Apparently so: $8 million a night on *Life's* opening weekend can't be all wrong.

The film begins with considera-

> ‘Presented as a commercial farce in its trailers, it turns out to be a story of two wrongful murder convictions’

ble style. Murphy is a light-fingered hoodlum with dreams of owning his own nightclub. A nicely understated Martin Lawrence has landed a bottom-rung bank job and dreams only of security. They blunder into each other in the kind of swingin' speakeasy that featured heavily in Murphy's 1989 flop, *Harlem Nights* — but they don't stay long. Their chief creditor dunks Lawrence headfirst in a sewer, then sends them off for a load of hooch.

Somewhere south of the Mason-Dixon line our sassy New Yorkers encounter a batch of "whites only" pies in a roadside coffee shop. "Don't you have no negro pies?" asks Lawrence, and a bunch of inbred rednecks with cross eyes and shotguns say "No" as one. It's a funny scene, but also the first sign of *Life*'s awkward two-track agenda: one track stops at all the jokes, the other reminds you of what one reviewer called "the bad sense it took to be black and in Mississippi circa 1932". Back then, for blacks with attitude, the road to jail ran straight and smooth. In this case the man who keeps it that way is a young white sheriff who frames Murphy and Lawrence for one of his own lynchings (see the humour yet?).

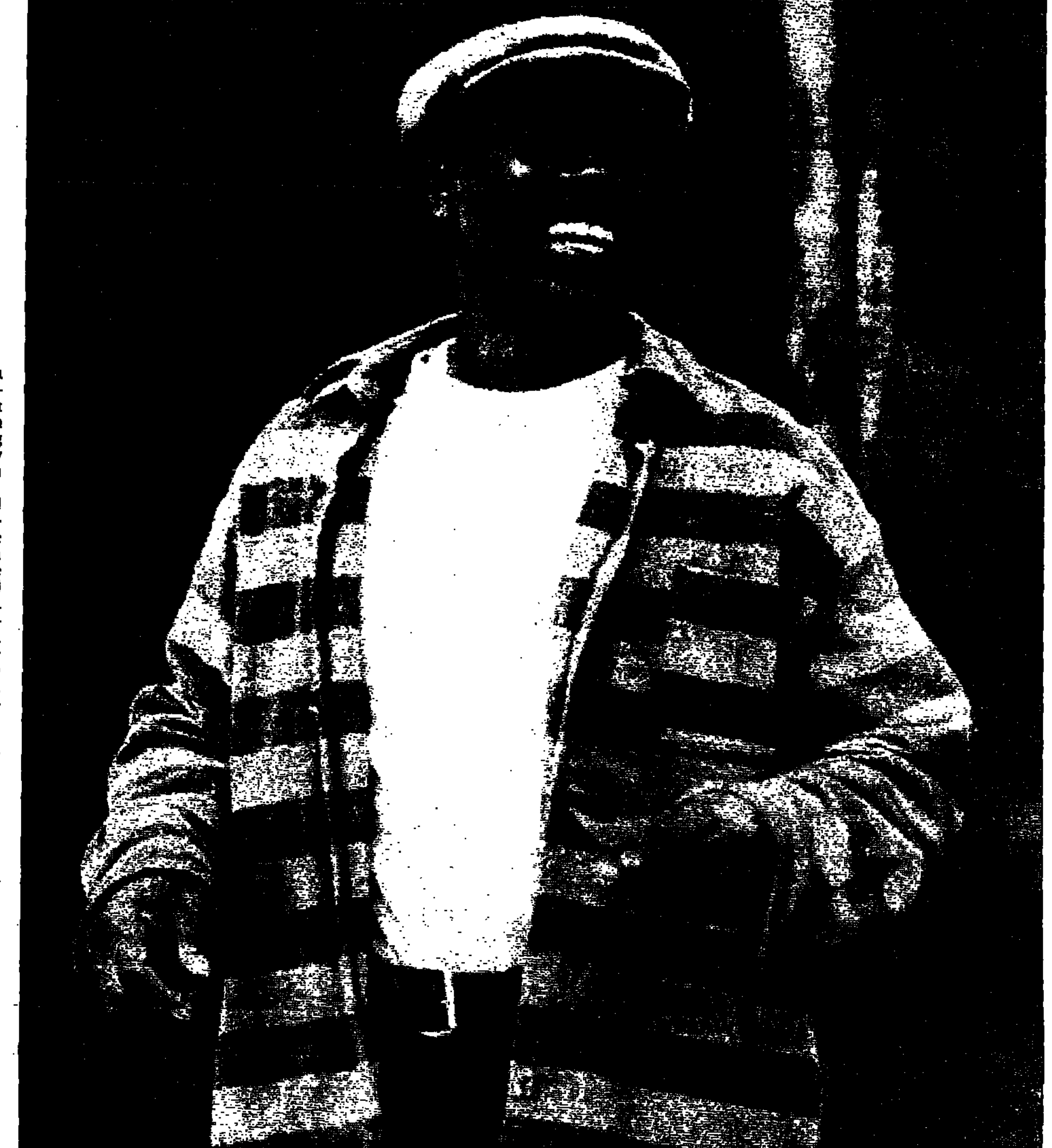
Just as Benigni built a stylised concentration camp for *Life is Beautiful*, this film's prison takes some liberties with reality. The chain gang sure looks miserable, and the big guy who hands out the ritual beatings sure is big. But this is a place where inmates may play baseball if they behave, pardons are a dime a dozen and dorm life can be downright fun, especially when Murphy regales his chums — in a beautiful sequence — with his fantasy of running Ray's Boom Boom Room when he gets out.

There is much that is not quite right with *Life*. The entire baseball subplot feels contrived and saps the film of tension. There is also a conspicuous lack of belly laughs and, for those who bother with reviews, a hint of affirmative action in their generosity; one has to wonder if the *Los Angeles Times* would have called this "so gracefully bittersweet and balanced" if its leads were comic white losers instead of comic black ones.

But the film's harshest critic gets it all wrong. "*Life* is a lurchingly sentimental prison comedy that's like a setup in search of a punchline," writes Owen Gleiberman in *Entertainment Weekly*. "The script is doughnut glaze too." In fact, the central relationship between Murphy and Lawrence is so unsentimental that they barely talk for years at a time. A suicide takes place without so much as a cry-cue from the violas, and most other inmates die off simply by vanishing. As for the script, it works by omission, leaving space for the furious extemporising at which Murphy is still unrivalled, even by Robin Williams (who *does* have a sentimentality problem).

Murphy is ably supported by Lawrence, who has plenty of real-life experience with the law. Once called the Mike Tyson of comedy, he has been accused of sexual harassment and spousal abuse. Here he is the calmer of the two prisoners, but as they age together from 30 to 90 with the help of thick prosthetic make-up the action slows for both of them — and us — and the poignancy does deepen.

Life is not art, but it is entertainment and it's sure to mean the Murphy-Lawrence team returns. When it does, Lawrence should play a Hawaiian-looking woman. Murphy himself.



Can we accept Eddie Murphy as a chronicler of the 20th century using an inmate in a prison camp as his mouthpiece? Apparently so

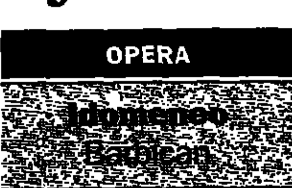
US WEEKEND BOX-OFFICE TAKINGS AND ANALYSIS

		Film	Takings
1	(-)	**Life** (Universal)	$20.7m/—
2	(1)	**The Matrix** (Warner Bros)	$18.1m/$73.3m
3	(2)	**Never Been Kissed** (Twentieth Century Fox)	$8.7m/$11.8m
4	(5)	**Analyze This** (Warner Bros)	$4m/$85.8m
5	(3)	**10 Things I Hate About You** (Touchstone)	$3.7m/$20.4m
6	(4)	**The Out-of Towners** (Paramount)	$3.2m/$16.2m
7	(6)	**Go** (Columbia)	$3m/$4.7m
8	(7)	**Forces of Nature** (DreamWorks)	$2.6m/$42.4m
9	(11)	**Shakespeare in Love** (Miramax)	$1.9m/$87.5m
10	(15)	**Cookie's Fortune** (October)	$1.8m/$1.3m

● *First amount is estimated weekend takings, April 16-18. Second amount is total takings to April 12. Figure in brackets indicates last week's position*

● Eddie Murphy's storming opening weekend with *Life* — a new record for an April release, Universal claims — has temporarily overshadowed *The Matrix*. Nevertheless, after just 18 days the Keanu Reeves cyberspace thriller has now passed the $100 million mark, according to Warner Bros. It is the first film of 1999 to do so.

When Strauss got to play God



OPERA
Idomeneo
Barbican

Now here's a curiosity, and a curiosity on an epic scale. In 1929 Richard Strauss was commissioned to devise an edition of *Idomeneo* to celebrate the 150th anniversary of its first performance in 1781. Mozart's great *opera seria* may be a standard repertory work today, but it was virtually unknown at the time, certainly to the general public. Strauss himself worshipped Mozart, and it was due largely to his passionate advocacy that *Cosi fan tutte*, in the doghouse throughout the 19th century, was rediscovered. He set about this new task with much enthusiasm.

In collaboration with the producer Lothar Wallerstein Strauss reordered the action, cutting many arias and yards of what he described as "interminable recitative" — the result plays for little over two hours. What is left of the recitative is recomposed very Straussianly for orchestra and bristling with Mozart-derived leitmotivs.

He changed the plot: Elettra is turned into a stern Priestess of Neptune, and deprived of *Idol mio* — she disapproves violently of Idamante, his love for a foreigner and mixed marriages in general. Had the programme included the new German libretto, we might have learnt more about this — at the time — curiously topical addition.

There are two long passages of pure and rather good Strauss based on Mozartian themes: an interlude and a huge, Tyrian purple ensemble after Neptune's intervention to celebrate the Happy End (it sounds like pages discarded from *Frau ohne Schatten*). The abrupt return to Mozart's own final chorus is a richly comic moment.

Strauss's *Idomeneo* — no other words will do — has not had a good press. The Mozart scholar Alfred Einstein called it "a gross act of mutilation", and in the cold light of day I suppose it is. But it is also a self-confessed second-rate composer's heartfelt act of homage to a great one, carried out with the purest of intentions and as such, however misguided by today's standards, rather touching. I am grateful to have heard it.

It was given in concert by Richard Hickox and the City of London Sinfonia as part of their *Greek Myths* series, and glamorously cast: Kurt Streit fluently easy in the title role, *Christine Brewer* lashing into the *faux*-Elettra's two angry arias, Pamela Helen Stephen in warm voice as Idamante (predictably, Strauss goes for the soprano alternative) and Alison Hagley very sweet as Ilia.

Another curiosity: this music apparently hasn't been heard anywhere for over half a century. Why was BBC Radio 3 not there? No money, of course, a sad reflection on the network's *current* emasculated state.

RODNEY MILNES

MARILYN KINGWILL



Alison Jiear, Hannah Lawrence and Juliet Roberts in the all-singing, all-dancing tribute to London, *Inner City Jam*

Songs of the city slickers

THEATRE
Inner City Jam
Cockpit, NW8

Back in 1971 a show called Inner City opened on Broadway with songs by Eve Merriam and music by Helen Miller. I can't trace a British production, so perhaps the story was thought too local to export, even though the director was Tom O'Horgan, the *Hair* man.

Inner City Jam is the child of that show, directed and adapted for London by Paul J. Medford, and a vigorous, likeable, foot-tapping evening it is. The show is not without a few faults, but these chiefly come from the strain of linking 30 songs to the lives of eight Londoners. Sometimes the shift in tone jars.

King's Cross is where the eight live and where some of them work, others beg but all sing and dance when feeling happy, when feeling blue. Four are men, four women; four are black, four white. Chris Dyer, playing one of the beggars in blankets, is still at college; at the other extreme Ann Emery, the gossiping pensioner, started her career with the Crazy Gang and must now be really getting on a bit.

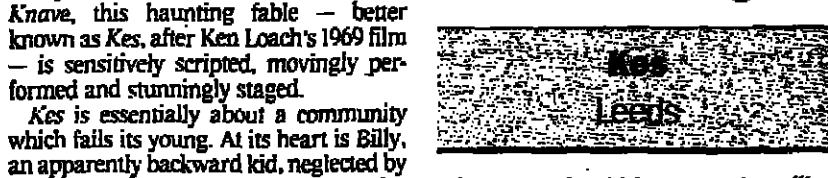
The mix of sex, race and age is astute enough to create what one can accept for a while as a representative cross-section — whore, single mum, drug pusher and the like — which Medford's direction and Dollie Henry's choreography bind into a 16-legged community animal.

When they dance their bodies move with the speed of knife-fighters. With something of the chop and slice of combat, too, although one-to-one partnering is rare. Dyer and the rubber-legged Paul Sharma dance alongside each other in a thrilling (and comic) tap competition, using the floor grating and a stretch of corrugated wall for acoustic variation, but more typically the cast dances in a tight group, darting across the open stage, opening and closing with movements suggesting aspiration and city toughness.

Many songs take off from nursery rhymes — recalling the show's origins in Merriam's book *The Inner City Mother Goose* — but after the familiar first line the verses turn darker. It is the women's songs that tap the deepest emotions. You do not need to believe what the words say to be moved by the searing, soaring power of Juliet Roberts, putting her trust in the Lord. Nor when, in the earlier *Woman to Woman*, the voice of Alison Jiear, playing the tubby tart, takes off to the sky above the melody. If for nothing else, moments like these are worth the trip to Lisson Grove.

JEREMY KINGSTON

The heart takes flight



Kes
Leeds

West Yorkshire Playhouse has quickly redeemed itself after a dismal production of one local classic, *Wuthering Heights*, with a splendid new version of another, this time set down the road in Barnsley. Adapted from Barry Hines's novel *A Kestrel for a Knave*, this haunting fable — better known as *Kes*, after Ken Loach's 1969 film — is sensitively scripted, movingly performed and stunningly staged.

Kes is essentially about a community which fails its young. At its heart is Billy, an apparently backward kid, neglected by his tarty mother, beaten up by his older brother and bullied on all sides. Billy's solace is his pet kestrel, on which he lavishes all the tenderness he has never known, and over which he exerts all the control he lacks in life.

Lawrence Till's script has the odd problem with the matter-of-fact realism of Hines's novel, which gets under Billy's thin but opaque skin by accreting telling little details rather than diving straight in. But Till easily captures its essence — both the dark comedy of Billy's home and school, and the unspoken passion of his private world. The director, Natasha Betteridge, maintains a brisk but unforced pace, dealing particularly well with the school scenes, filling the stage with a realistically rowdy hubbub and much sparkling comic detail.

The individual performances are not always quite so well honed, although Betteridge has assembled a strong cast. Particularly pleasing are Alan Cowan as a thuggish PE instructor, Frank Moorey as a megalomaniac headmaster and Joanna Bacon as Billy's mother. Sixteen-year-old Raymond Pickard, making his stage debut as Billy, reveals uncommon maturity in an unshowy performance.

Laura Hopkins's lavish set is a marvel of ingenuity, constantly revolving and sliding to reveal new vistas and interiors. Much enhanced by Jon Buswell's lighting, she achieves an almost filmic quality and some genuinely beautiful tableaux.

NIGEL CLIFF



■ **GALLERIES**
How painters see art

ARTS

■ **MUSIC**
Philharmonia premiere

In the eye of the beholder


SUZANNE HUBBARD

The artist as guinea-pig: portrait painter Humphrey Ocean demonstrates the "eye tracker", a camera which can reveal the focus of his gaze when he sketches a subject

VISUAL ART: When a portrait painter looks at his subject, what does he see? A new show at the National Portrait Gallery reveals all to **Rachel Campbell-Johnston**

A beautiful black girl was standing by the information desk at the National Portrait Gallery. I think she was touting audio cassettes, but it was her eyes I focused on: huge and dark and glitter-dusted. The gallery *should* keep her on permanent display. What better way to advertise its new show, *The Painter's Eye*?

When people refer to the "artist's eye" it is usually in a rather nebulous sense. They are talking about some distinctive vision, emotional content or personal choice. But, in examining the relationship between the painter and his model, what this exhibition explores instead is the artist's eye as a biological organ linked to the brain, co-ordinated with the hand and the movements it makes. "A lot has been said about ways of seeing," says Dr John Tchalenko, co-ordinator of this project, "but far less has been said about *how* we see."

To study the technicalities of this process he has taken a portraitist, Humphrey Ocean, as his guinea pig, kitting him out with a biomedical eye tracker as he sketches his subject, shovelling him into a scanning machine, wiring his hand to a recording sensor. Some of the resulting data are presented almost as artworks in the exhibition. A wire replica of patterns traced by Ocean's sketching hand forms a spidery sculpture in its own right. But mostly this show is a series of explanatory diagrams, half-finished drawings, eye movement graphs and sections through the brain, which together build up a scientific picture of the artist's seeing processes.

So how does the artist's way of seeing compare with that of the untrained viewer? Apparently, as Ocean peruses his model, his precisely targeted gaze means he needs only to glance 12 times per minute at his subject, whereas I — so I learn — will flatter my subject with some 140 looks. Furthermore I process information in the hinder regions of my visual cortex — a giveaway sign that I am only slavishly copying. The artist *understands* instead. Interpreting what he sees in the more abstract frontal areas of his brain, he *thinks* his portraits.

But do I need to know this? Isn't it just a dull reduction of art to data? A dry attempt at analysing genius? Tchalenko insists not. "Science will not defeat the mystery of art," he says. "It's just that, if before you admired paintings with an ignorant wonder, you can leave this show and admire art with a wonder all the greater in that it grows out of knowledge."

In a sense I understand what he means. And Ocean has certainly selected some of the National Portrait Gallery's finest pictures for departing visitors to practise their newly awakened seeing skills on. But perhaps I have grown too set in my ways to abandon the good old ignoramus's gut response. I didn't see Rembrandt's crepuscular portrait with anything other than reverence. Auerbach's delicious impasto still made me want, more than anything, to touch. I remained emotionally indifferent to Andy Warhol. And the gallery attendant's glittery eyes looked just as beautiful on the way out. But don't take my word for it. Pay the exhibition a visit and see for yourself.

● The Painter's Eye *is at the National Portrait Gallery (0171-312 2452) until June 13*

A hot name to drop

POP
Roots
Astoria

Outside the Astoria, touts were all but begging to buy spare tickets for the Roots' sold-out London show. Inside, hundreds of baseball cap-clad fans were too busy acting aloof to appreciate the fact that they were attending one of only two UK dates on the group's current tour. Highly rated in hip hop circles since the early 1990s, Philadelphia's the Roots has recently become a hot pop name to drop. Last year the band's fourth album, *Things Fall Apart*, went platinum in America, outstripping combined sales of its three predecessors.

So keen was the crowd to see the Roots that many barely bothered with the support act, Melky Sedeck. It was a shame. The New Jersey duo gave a compelling, if at times inappropriate, performance.

Multi-instrumentalist Sedeck Jean and his singer sister Melky — both younger siblings of the Fugees' Wyclef Jean — set a striking mix of soul, gospel and classical music to retro funk-flavoured grooves. Too many downtempo tracks, however, alienated an audience hyped up for some hip hop action. After half an hour, not even the 21-year-old singer's sexy stage antics could halt an exodus to the bar.

In contrast, the reaction to the Roots was ecstatic. Fronted by main band members Black Thought and Quest, who took it in turns to rap, the five-strong outfit produced a surprisingly hard-edged, dancefloor-friendly fusion of funk, dub and hip hop. The set opened with a bizarre cowbell jam, a reference to the group's early days spent busking on the streets of Philadelphia. Starting with a stripped-down version of the forthcoming single *The Next Movement*, the following 90 minutes featured a selection of tracks from all four of the Roots' albums.

Devoid of a DJ for the first time — a fantastic drummer and two guitarists were a substitute for samples — the band were able to control carefully the tempo and direction of the songs, which added a new dimension to the music. The only disappointment was the absence of Erykah Badu, who sang on the group's recent debut UK hit, *You Got Me*. Her stand-in, however, was more than adequate.

LISA VERRICO

BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best classical recordings in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

■ **RICHARD STRAUSS'S DER ROSENKAVALIER**
Reviewed by Patrick O'Connor

ALTHOUGH the opera has moments of gravity, verging on tears, *Der Rosenkavalier* is a comedy. It must never lose the feeling of Viennese farce, with a dash of French boudoir naughtiness. It must also be sung and acted with total conviction — so that while laughing at the characters the audience sympathises with them.

Strauss's librettist, Hugo von Hofmannsthal, stipulated that the title-role should be sung by "a shapely wench in men's clothes". Although cast by Strauss for a soprano, over the years this role has often been the province of mezzos, and the change of emphasis — lighter voices versus heavier ones — is one of the choices facing record-buyers.

Ochs's crucial aria in Act I, in which he expounds his philosophy of the battle of the sexes, is heavily cut in both versions conducted by Karajan. The earliest of these has the controversial Marschallin of Elisabeth Schwarzkopf — love it or hate it, it's impossible to ignore this famous performance. Karajan's later version (1983) has the most beautifully sung Ochs of all, from Kurt Moll — so it's a great pity that his part is cut.

The most recent version is from EMI, with the Dresden Staatskapelle conducted by Haitink with Kiri Te Kanawa and Anne Sofie von Otter as Marschallin and Octavian. This is in digital sound, and is a smooth, well-tempered performance.

However, for a completely satisfying, authentically Viennese performance, my top recommendation is **Sir Georg Solti's** recording with the **Vienna Philharmonic** and the best-matched quartet of soloists: Regine Crespin, Yvonne Minton, Helen Donath and Manfred Jungwirth (Decca 417 493-2, £46.49). This incorporates all the moods that the authors demanded, ranging from "part vaudeville, part ballet" to the bittersweet ending, in Strauss's words "melting gradually into a lyrical mood".

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345-023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk
Next Saturday on Radio 3 (11am): Vivaldi's Gloria

CONCERTS: Powerful maestros on show in London; a revelatory reading of a problem symphony in Birmingham; and Kennedy wowing Basingstoke

Rising Korean star beguiles

Philharmonia/ Thielemann
Festival Hall

If the first movement of Brahms's Piano Concerto No 1 can be seen as a dialogue between the powerful, public voice of the orchestra and the more poetic tone of the piano, then this Philharmonia Orchestra performance had a well-matched pair of protagonists in Christian Thielemann and Andreas Haefliger. Thielemann is a conductor with a penchant for heroism, Haefliger a pianist who can take the massive demands of Brahms in his stride and invest even the biggest moments with majestic lyricism.

At least in this opening movement, the muscular weight Thielemann brought to the music was impressive, and he drew typically warm and responsive playing from the orchestra. But his approach was also one-dimensional: the mood of religious contemplation in the Adagio was not fully reflected, and he was overassertive in the Rondo. Here Haefliger gave the solo part all the air it needed, but Thielemann was simply suffocating.

Similarly, Thielemann put a big-orchestra gloss on Schumann's Second Symphony, a work by a composer on the edge of a breakdown rather than a statement of confidence. This account worked best in the elegiac Adagio, but there is surely more lyricism than Thielemann found.

Much more enlightening was the free, early-evening concert in the Philharmonia's excellent "Music of Today" series, devoted to the work of the Berlin-based Korean composer Unsuk Chin. Her music is not as well known here as it deserves to be, so it is good that a London Sinfonietta commission is in the pipeline. She is a true original, like her former teacher Ligeti, but her style is perhaps more spontaneous.

Chin's work in electronic music has given her an amazing ear for the possibilities of conventional instruments, and in *Fantasie mécanique* (receiving its British premiere) the ensemble of trumpet, trombone, piano and percussion is in a state of constant flux. The dark, ruthless vigour of the opening is very different from the brittle episodes that follow, but everything is at once mechanical and free. Stefan Asbury directed members of the Philharmonia in a performance of dazzling virtuosity.

Akrostichon-Wortspiel for soprano and ensemble is Chin's most widely played score. The wit of the texts, distorted from fairytales, is matched by music of beguiling beauty. Each of the seven movements evokes a different atmosphere, but nothing is as unexpected as the opulence of the scene in which all the lines continuously tumble down. Though Nicole Tibbels was occasionally overpowered, she sang and even whistled her way through the rest of the part with panache.

JOHN ALLISON

Fiddled to perfection

Kennedy
Basingstoke

Whoever said the English are a repressed race has not been to Basingstoke on a Friday night. The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra was at the Anvil concert hall with its conductor laureate, Andrew Litton, and the music was red-hot from bar one. First there was Elgar, pouring out his soul in his extraordinary Violin Concerto. Then there was Walton, ferociously forceful in his First Symphony, timpani thumping to wake the dead.

And, far from least, there was Kennedy, the artist formerly known as Nigel, fiddling away in a loose white shirt tied at the waist, a mischievous angel complete with Bach encore and farewell patter. "I have a gift," he told the packed hall, scrutinising the first few rows. "I can tell which people have washed their hair . . ."

He pointed. We laughed.

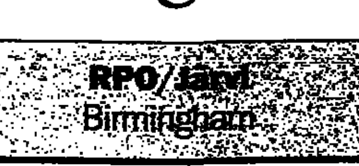
We needed some light relief. For we had just experienced an emotional cataclysm, pulled this way and that through song, exultation, lament and rage. Every bar in some pages of Elgar's score brings a different tempo or expression mark. This can be perilous, but Litton, signalling with giant downbeats, made sure nobody went astray. After two famous recordings and umpteen performances, Kennedy still takes no note for granted, and never lets the needs of the moment sabotage structure or tension. In the third movement's cadenza, time stood still in a wistful reverie: such was the first movement's ardour that its 17 discursive minutes seemed to whip by in five. The second movement was all sweetness and beseeching, crowned by a rapt diminuendo. At the end Kennedy praised orchestra and conductor: a joy to work with, he said. It showed.

Litton's feeling for the repertoire was also blazingly clear. Like his fellow Americans André Previn and Leonard Slatkin he knows how to go straight to the bones and sinews of mainstream English music. In the symphony the first movement's propulsive rhythms were fiercely punched out: if the movement really mirrors Walton's love life with Baroness Imma Doernberg, as the programme note suggested, I would not want to have been their neighbour. But Litton also embraced the work's plaintive side, and for once made sense of the finale's mood swings between maestoso preening, fugal bustling, dark pangs and elation. Throughout the orchestra played with fire, poetry and real commitment. A glorious evening.


Kennedy: glorious in Elgar

GEOFF BROWN

Mahler comes good at the last



The most inspired part of Mahler's Seventh Symphony is not, by common consent, the last movement. Common consent no longer extends as far as Birmingham, however. In Symphony Hall a year ago Rattle and the CBSO demonstrated that the Rondo Finale is at least as imaginative as the rest. And now Neeme Järvi has been to the same hall with the Royal Philharmonic and made an impassioned case for it as the true and unfailingly thrilling climax of the work.

From the jubilant drum rolls and horn fanfares at the beginning of the finale, it was clear that the interpretation was being elevated to a new level. If it seemed unlikely that it could be sustained at that pitch of intensity, events proved such doubts to be out of place. At the same time, and even more surprisingly in a way, the allegedly derivative elements seemed to have lost their alien quality: they were phrased and coloured in such a way that they were integrated into a compellingly consistent characterisation.

Another reason why the finale seemed so outstanding was, unfortunately, that the earlier parts of the work had been less convincingly presented. Working on less than adequate rehearsal time — or so it seemed from the string playing — Järvi and the RPO had found little atmosphere or expressive purpose in the opening movement and had made the first *Nachtmusik* plainly repetitive. It was only in the demonic Scherzo and in the second *Nachtmusik* that they began to communicate something of Mahler's vision and to create the sinister conditions to which the finale is intended to provide the wholesome daytime answer.

The concert had begun, somewhat unfairly for the soloist perhaps, with Richard Strauss's Oboe Concerto. Though clearly nervous to start with, Christopher Cowie did recover at an early stage and went on to give a performance distinguished by a disarmingly sweet sound and a not too assertive personality.

GERALD LARNER

Heavy-handed view of Sibelius



It is remarkable enough these days when a symphony orchestra plays Haydn at all. But to programme a symphony as early as No 21 in A, a work rarely heard in concert and one that doesn't even bear a nickname (the last two facts are probably not unrelated) takes some courage. Beginning his Sunday LSO concert with this piece, Michael Tilson Thomas made a strong case for it.

It opens, in the old-fashioned church sonata style, with an Adagio, but one that unfolds with quiet intensity. If one was struck by how un-Haydn-like that movement sounded, it was doubtless to do with the tension between the archaism of the style and the modernity of Tilson Thomas's account.

Modern, that is to say, in the sense that it was Romantically conceived and played on modern instruments. Even while this vibrantly expressive interpretation was raising subliminal question marks, I have to admit that I found it extraordinarily beautiful and moving.

A similar disjunction of stylistic validity and expressive effect recurred later with Sibelius's Second Symphony. But before that, authenticity of a different kind reared its head in Bartók's Viola Concerto. Written under the shadow of the composer's final illness, the latter was left in sketch form. Tibor Serly's competent but radical completion is only one aspect of the concerto's problematic status, but it cannot be said that Yuri Bashmet's ill-prepared reading did much to dispel doubts. Quite apart from compromised intonation, his performance seemed unable to engage with even the more inspired passages of the work.

The problem with Tilson Thomas's Sibelius, on the other hand, is rather the reverse. Where a traditional Sibelian will allow these elemental structures to develop organically, Tilson Thomas likes to mould the clay himself, firmly defining every paragraph, driving ever onward to an overwhelming conclusion. Thus, the first movement was whipped into a lather, suggesting at times the emotionalism of Tchaikovsky's *Pathétique*, even a Mahlerian angst. At the same time, it was clean, dynamic, very American.

With the LSO brass punctuating powerfully but proportionately, the second movement rightly sounded baleful rather than triumphalist. The third, though a tour de force of rapid string playing, also had unarguable trenchancy.

The cumulative energy of the finale was no less breathtaking. Even if one's instincts reacted against the contrived dynamism, the relentless interventionism in what should seem a cataclysmic natural process, it was impossible not to be thrilled by the result.

BARRY MILLINGTON

■ **COMEDY**

Red Dwarfs branch out

ARTS

■ **LISTINGS**

Derby debut for Boyband

A game of two halves

Red Dwarf: The Roadshow? Not quite. Though the cult television series exerts a mysterious hold over half the student population of the Western hemisphere, Chris Barrie and Norman Lovett are intent on demonstrating that there is life beyond outer space.

Co-star Craig Charles has also been out on the road with his stand-up show, alternating between lager-lout banter and heart-on-sleeve verse. Barrie and Lovett's double bill, which is touring until the end of May, is another study in contrasts, Barrie playing the high-speed joke and impression machine, his partner chugging along at his own befuddled tempo.

A sell-out opening night in Wycombe Town Hall belonged to the lugubrious Lovett, a Max Wall devotee whose delivery grows sparser and yet more amusing by the year. A master of the calculated digression, he takes the longest possible scenic route to each punch-line, frequently

COMEDY

Chris Barrie
Norman Lovett
High Wycombe

abandoning the journey half-way through as another idea takes his fancy.

When the European Commission finally gets round to issuing a directive on Comedic Productivity, he will be in serious trouble, since his gag-per-minute ratio falls way below accepted norms. The joy lies in the gaps between — in the bemused frowns and the quizzical pauses as he muses on his pet spaniel, his £58 M&S linen jacket and the design specifications of the plastic tea-stirrers given out in train buffets. Lovett turns aimlessness into an art. Max Wall, remember, once appeared in *Waiting For Godot*, and you can easily imagine Lovett following in his footsteps, big boots and all.

Barrie's more mainstream segment of the evening still needs time to settle down. A rogue microphone certainly did not help. But there was also the unmistakable sense that he was trying breathlessly to cram in too much material, lapsing into the blue stuff well before the end. The impersonations of Barry Norman, Paul Daniels and Richie Benaud could be pensioned off too.

It is a shame he doesn't do Michael Portillo — in the right light, he bears more than a passing resemblance. But we do get an impudent version of Tony Blair letting his mean streak show in round-table talks with Sinn Fein and a hapless Mo Mowlam. The script fizzled out before the end, but there is time to fix it.

CLIVE DAVIS

Turn up the steam heat

MUSICALS: Anna Kythreotis talks to the unlikely foursome who are breathing new life into the old *Pajama Game*

Given the continuing success of old Broadway musicals dusted down for the English stage in recent years it was inevitable that more would follow. Less predictable was that next up would be *The Pajama Game*, a piece that is being brought out of retirement for one of its few major revivals since the original production on Broadway in 1954.

Less predictable still is the team assembled for the task: designs are by the leading American abstract artist Frank Stella, choreography by Birmingham Royal Ballet's director David Bintley, musical supervision by the classical saxophone virtuoso John Harle, and direction by Simon Callow. An impressive list of distinguished names — and a rather odd one, in that Stella and Bintley have never worked on a musical before.

The collaboration of such creatively charged individuals implies that a straightforward revival is not on the cards. "No. 'Revival' has Draculean overtones — the walking dead — we've all seen *those* shows," says Callow, who felt that a relatively virgin ensemble would approach this with an attitude of "what fun" rather than "here we go again". (The show has a novice musical performer, too: the TV presenter Ulrika Jonsson heads a cast that includes performance poet John Hegley and soap-opera star Anita Dobson.)

The idea of involving Stella was as inspired as it was ambitious. There is an almost theatrical dimension to the energetic vitality of his brilliantly coloured, vibrant canvases, and the uninhibited fantasy and fluidity of his work corresponded exactly to the free-wheeling manner of the intended staging. But what was the attraction of this for Stella — one of the major figures in contemporary art whose work, more usually seen in major museum collections, has consistently kept him at the cutting edge of the avant garde for more than 40 years? "I thought about the stage, and what to do within that box to make it come alive," explains Stella. "To create an imagery for the music and the choreography to bounce off, and put something there for the eyes as well as the ears. To find a way to get the box off the ground."

Stella's bold, eye-grabbing, stylised designs thrilled the composer Richard Adler, the only surviving architect of the original production and musical adviser on this one. "I was absolutely wiped out by what I saw," he says. "The concept of *Pajama Game* in this different style — both visually and musically — is very interesting to me."

The Pajama Game is something of a curiosity: initially a thundering success, it has all but disappeared from both the stage and the public consciousness. Based on Richard Bissell's novel *7½ Cents* — about a strike in a pyjama factory, complicated by the boss and the union negotiator falling in love — it was turned down by every major composer and lyricist until Adler and Jerry Ross saw its potential and crafted it into the acclaimed show which won six Tony awards including Best Musical, and launched the careers of two Broadway debutants — the choreographer

HUGO GLENDINNING



Four men in the same boat: (from left) collaborators Frank Stella, David Bintley, Simon Callow and John Harle

Bob Fosse, and Shirley MacLaine, understudying an indisposed Carol Haney. After an equally triumphant run in London and a 1957 film version starring Doris Day, the piece vanished. Yet it contains several fine songs including *Hey There*, *Once a Year Day* and *Hernando's Hideaway*, and one of the great blockbuster numbers of all time, *Steam Heat*, which is still stopping the show *Fosse* on Broadway.

It was one of the last musicals to come out of the tradition of revue and, like others of that genre, it has a vivacious, mad-cap zaniness. "Champagne musicals" Callow calls them, "engendering a state of delirious, idiotic joy". To recapture that spirit the artistic team have created an abstract, almost surreal, ambience for the piece: an expressionistic interpretation of Fifties elements that acknowledges the period without resurrecting it.

"It's a world of 1950s music that wouldn't necessarily have been the 1950s music of the Broadway stage," explains Harle, whose work has covered the waterfront from original compositions for concerts, opera, film and theatre to collaborations with Elvis Costello. "We're paying attention to Miles Davis and Gil Evans, and also Duke Ellington, along with a semi-classical approach to some of the orchestrations where there's a sort of Debussyesque abstraction. Not to take it so far out of its roots that it becomes something else, but to give it a bit of panache, an intelligent, contemporary edge."

The choreography also moves away from standard musical routines into a broader range that puts an inventive spin on the dances of the Fifties — jazz, blues, rumba, rock'n'roll. "Taking a style and using it is something I do quite often — it's never authentic, and it isn't meant to be — it just gives a flavour," says Bintley, who showed an inspired flair for the Broadway/Hollywood idiom in his ballet *Nutcracker Sweeties*. Bintley, however, was the hardest to hook into the project, wavering between a desire to work with this team and an aversion to the musical convention where, in an apparently representational world, people suddenly and irrationally break into song and dance. Nor was he impressed by the rather dated film. "Cheesy," he terms it.

But the possibilities offered by the abstract tone (Callow shrewdly likening it to ballet) appealed to Bintley. "It has reference to reality stronger than many other musicals," he says. "But because of the revue nature of the production it won't matter when people stop to sing and dance. And within the dazzling aesthetic of Frank's designs you're freed from a lot of restrictions." He has yet, however, to reconcile himself to *There Once Was A Man*, a country-and-western number which he loathes. Cheesy? "Gorgonzola," he groans. Callow defines the song as a kind of post-coital eruption of all-American exuberance. "Post-coital country-and-western," observes Bintley. "It doesn't bear thinking about."

The sexual metaphor is not misplaced. Although Jean Luc Godard described the piece as "the first left-wing operetta", the story is ultimately about sexual rather than industrial relations. "It is no accident," says the director, "that it's set in a pyjama factory."

● The Pajama Game *previews at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre (0121-236 4455) from Thursday and opens April 29*

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: The prodigiously gifted Daniel Harding conducts the LPO in an opulent programme of Brahms, Strauss and Mozart's Piano Concerto in D, K 537, with Christian Zacharias as soloist.
Festival Hall (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm.

THE GARDEN OF HABUSTAN: Besht Tellers performs Rebecca Wolman's play. Ancestral ghosts try to explain today's disputes between Palestinian and Israeli. Music by Theo Travis.
Tricycle (0171-328 1000). Opens tonight, 7pm.

THE YIDDISH QUEEN LEAR: Julia Pascal sets the familiar story in the 1930s. Here an ageing Yiddish actress hands over her theatre business to her three daughters. With Ruth Posner and Amanda Boxer.
Southwark Playhouse (0171-620 3494). Previews, 7.30pm. Opens Thur.

ACADEMY OF ANCIENT MUSIC: Emma Kirkby and James Bowman are two of the soloists with the AAM and the Choir of New College Oxford in an all-Handel gala in aid of the Thomas Coram Foundation for Children.
St John's, Smith Square (0171-222 1061). Tonight, 7.30pm.

James Bowman sings Handel in St John's

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Paavo Järvi leads the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in an evening which opens with Richard Strauss's flamboyant symphonic poem Don Juan, coupled with Brahms's Violin Concerto (soloist Silvia Marcovici) and Nielsen's Fifth Symphony. Repeated Thursday.
Symphony Hall (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm.

DERBY: World premiere of a new musical, Boyband, which traces the story of five young guys as they hurtle into pop stardom. West End bound.
Playhouse (01332 363275). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

MANCHESTER: In Alex Finlayson's new play Tobaccoland ghostly figures from the past join Trevor Peacock in a family debate about the future.
Royal Exchange (0161-833 9833). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: Simon Reade and Tim Supple adapt Tales from Ovid, Ted Hughes's best-selling version of Ovid's Metamorphoses.
Swan (01789 295623). Opens tonight, 7pm. In repertoire.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

◪ **CANDIDE:** Great songs in Bernstein's musical drawn from Voltaire. John Caird and Trevor Nunn direct excellent cast led by Daniel Evans, Alex Kelly and Simon Russell Beale.
Olivier (0171-452 3000).

□ **THE NEW ROCKY HORROR SHOW:** Jason Donovan plays Frank'n'Furter. Perhaps the show has improved since its Birmingham opening last year.
Victoria Palace, (0171-834 1317).

□ **ESCAPE FROM PTERADACTYL ISLAND:** Award-winning American musical based on the genre of early sci-fi novels, with new rock'n'roll songs from Michael Jeffery.
Pleasance Theatre (0171-609 1800).

□ **SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER:** Sheila Gish plays the venomous mother and Rachel Weisz the traumatised wife in famous Tennessee Williams shocker. Sean Mathias directs.
Comedy Theatre (0171-369 1731).

□ **MAKING NOISE QUIETLY:** Dominic Dromgoole's Oxford Stage Co opens a London season with Robert Holman's much-praised trilogy of short plays where strangers meet at a time of war. Eleanor Bron heads the cast. Deborah Bruce directs.
Whitehall Theatre (0171-369 1735.

□ **THE COLONEL BIRD:** Interesting play by Bulgarian author Hristo Boytchev where lunatics take over an asylum and invite recognition by NATO.
Gate (0171-229 0706).

□ **THE GIN GAME:** Dorothy Tutin and Joss Ackland play old folk in a retirement home whose card-playing styles echo their sad lives.
Savoy (0171-836 8888).

□ **HUSHABYE MOUNTAIN:** Jonathan Harvey's bittersweet comedy about a relationship broken by Aids. Some scenes set in Heaven, where Judy Garland welcomes the dead partner.
Hampstead (0171-722 9301).

□ **THE DISPUTE:** Superb production by Neil Bartlett of his translation of Marivaux where four imprisoned adolescents meet the world and each other for the first time..
Lyric, W6 (0181-741 2311).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

AN IDEAL HUSBAND (PG): Oliver Parker's sumptuous homage to Wilde's ever-fashionable play is hijacked by Rupert Everett's madly charming Lord Goring. With Jeremy Northam and Cate Blanchett.

HAPPINESS (18): Poisonous but gripping black comedy about dismal urban attempts to find happiness. Todd Solondz's film walks an original, edgy line between fantastic humour and ghastly habits.

RETURN TO PARADISE (15): Joseph Ruben's crisis of conscience film is only a fitful suspense about two American buddies who face years in a Malaysian prison if they return to help their condemned buddy. With Vince Vaughn and Anne Heche.

PROMETHEUS (15): Tony Harrison's dense film-poem is a work of surreal genius and endless layers. Michael Feast is compelling as Zeus's flunky who looks at what we have achieved and destroyed with his stolen fire.

ACTRESSES (15): Three famous Catalonian stage actresses stir up old jealousies. Too stagey, too self-conscious, with the dramatic impetus of a slug. A static self-indulgent piece by Ventura Pons.

CURRENT

A CIVIL ACTION (15): Meaty court-room drama with John Travolta and Robert Duvall in sparkling form as two sharks in a multi-million dollar case about toxic dumping. Steven Zaillian directs.

BEDROOMS & HALLWAYS (15): Playful romantic comedy about male bonding with Simon Callow splendidly miscast as a hetrosexual New Age Svengali. Rose Troche directs.

THE FACULTY (15): Fishy sci-fi chiller with high comedy quota from Kevin Williamson, the scribe behind Scream. A faculty of schoolteachers get taken over by alien squids from outer space. Director Robert Rodriguez flogs the creeping paranoia with seat-clutching wit.

SLAM (15): Saul Williams puts in a sensational performance as a black rap poet caught up in the Washington prison system. A gritty documentary-style film by Marc Levin.

HIGH ART (18): Ally Sheedy and Radha Mitchell spread lesbian gloom and doom in an upmarket photographic magazine. Drugs, decadence and Fassbinder fail to illuminate Lisa Cholodenko's constipated melodrama.

The wrong man to run the BBC

Greg Dyke must be kept at arm's length, says Anthony Howard

There is no more sensitive post in the entire British power structure than that of Director-General of the BBC. Once appointed, whoever holds the office becomes the guarantor for the Corporation's independence. impartiality and objectivity. He is much more pivotal than the BBC Chairman who. by virtue of being chosen directly by Downing Street. has long been recognised as a creature of the patronage process.

It is also the Director-General who operates as the Editor-in-Chief for all the BBC's multifarious output. That responsibility was insisted upon by Sir William Haley when he took over as sole D-G from Robert Foot in 1944. With an unwise single lapse (when Sir Michael Checkland handed over his journalistic and editorial responsibilities to John Birt between 1987 and 1992). it has been the standard practice ever since.

The mere suggestion that the Prime Minister and the Culture Secretary should have their favoured candidate to become Sir John Birt's successor is in itself wholly improper — and in days when less lax standards prevailed than at the present time it would immediately have doomed the prospects of any such contender.

Of course, a disqualification of that sort might be thought unfair if the recipient of such high-level support had done absolutely nothing to earn it. But that is hardly the current situation. We know that the apparent front-runner in the Portland Place stakes comes under starter's orders with some heavy personal and political weights attached to him.

> The clearest signal yet of pork-barrel politics

I have never met Greg Dyke. though. at least since the Roland Rat episode with TV-am in 1983. nearly everything I have heard about him has been to his credit. That does not. however. alter the judgment that any selection of him by the BBC Board of Governors over the next month would be not only inappropriate but entirely unacceptable.

Broadcasting House and No 10 should always operate on an arm's-length principle: in the firmament of British public life they stand for entirely different interests and their duties should not get confused. One of the great triumphs of the BBC was the way in which — partly thanks to Brendan Bracken, Churchill's enlightened Minister of Information — it avoided that confusion even in the darkest days of the Second World War.

But how is that tradition to be maintained if the next D-G turns out to be not merely a regular contributor to Labour Party funds but also a personal financial backer of the Prime Minister from the moment his leadership campaign was launched almost four years ago?

Those, of course, are perfectly legitimate actions for any citizen in a democracy to take; but they have to be seen as an impediment to holding so supposedly an independent job as running the BBC.

A former Lord Chief Justice. Gordon Hewart, once famously insisted that "justice must not only be done but should also manifestly and undoubtedly be seen to be done". How is anyone going to recognise that as being the case in terms of party balance if the next person in charge at the BBC is not just an active Labour Party supporter but a backer and friend of the Prime Minister?

Admittedly, we may be told that, since the present Chairman of the BBC is a proclaimed Tory, the insertion of a figure such as Greg Dyke into the higher counsels of the Corporation would be an act of maintaining political balance.

This strikes me as the most suspicious and sinister argument of all. The Government was under no obligation to reappoint Sir Christopher Bland for a second term of office a full two years ahead of his first one running out.

But it pressed ahead cheerfully. It disappointed one of its most prominent film-making supporters, David Puttnam, by failing to back him as vice-chairman. It then had to explain embarrassingly to the publisher, Gail Rebuck. that she was ruled out by reason of her marriage to the Labour Party pollster Philip Gould.

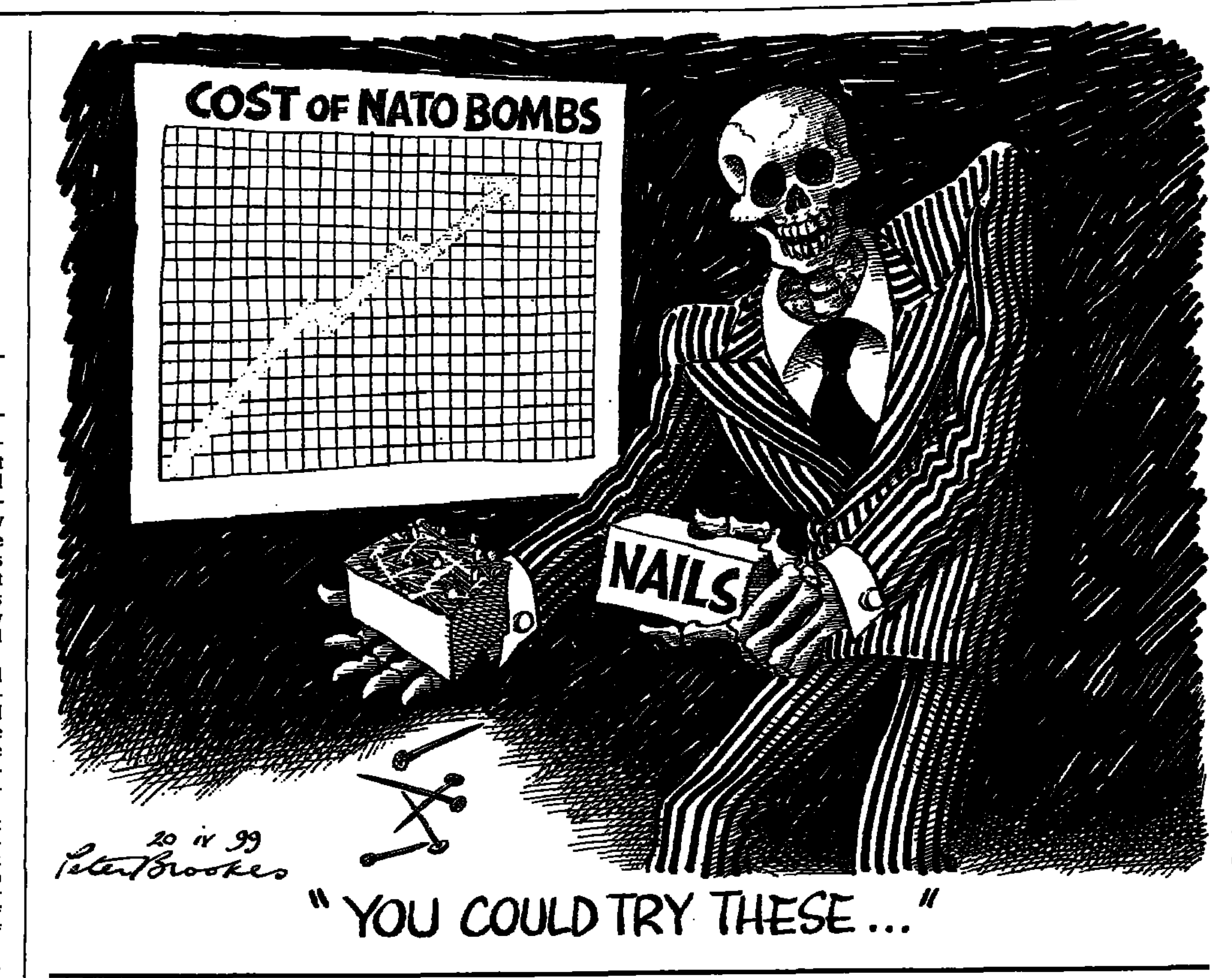
What, one wonders, was the purpose behind all this preliminary clearing of the decks? Had someone already spotted that if no one too high-profile was appointed as vice-chairman (the job eventually went to Baroness Young of Old Scone) it would be a lot easier to slot in a politically sympathetic and personally compatible person in the much more influential role of Director-General? Perish the thought. But somehow it refuses entirely to go away.

The individual Governors now have a formidable responsibility in choosing the next D-G. Sir Christopher, for all his Tory affiliations, is held to be a strong advocate of Mr Dyke. But there is no reason why a chairman should always automatically get his way. Duke Hussey, after all, failed to do so when he originally wanted David Dimbleby to take the place of Alasdair Milne in 1987.

The appointment of Director-General is easily the most important task that can fall to any BBC board. The present board should realise what is at stake and react accordingly.

Even if, as one sometimes hears, Greg Dyke is the man most qualified to take that old public service monument of John Reith's forward into the world of digital communications, one insurmountable obstacle still stands in the way of his appointment. It would give the clearest signal yet that in Blair's Britain, pork-barrel politics has finally come into its own. And in case that is thought to be pitching matters a bit strong, just imagine what your feelings would be if *you* were John Simpson doing a war-reporting job in Belgrade and you suddenly learnt that your next boss was to be not just a declared supporter of the Labour Government, but also a close crony of its leader.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Blue remembered thrills

We are just about at a safe enough distance to celebrate the Thatcher phenomenon

Tonight, with due ceremony and a William Hague speech, the Conservative Way Forward group will be looking backwards. Let us hope they keep a firm grip on the handrail in case of dizziness, for the occasion is a dinner to mark the passage of almost 20 years since Margaret Thatcher's first election triumph. You remember: the one when she stood on the steps of No 10 and quoted St Francis: "Where there is discord, may we bring harmony" — this being the first of a series of calls to harmony including "Not for turning!", "No, no, no!", "There is no alternative!" and "Rejoice!".

Well, it is a good moment to look back. The next couple of weeks will be overrun by even more piquant anniversaries, such as new Labour's 2nd birthday and Nato's 50th (apparently celebrations in Washington are being hastily downsized, with a tasteful ruling that lounge suits should replace black tie. Who says they have no shame?). So let us, too, pause and celebrate the gamey flavours of the Thatcher years, as seen from what is just beginning to feel like a safe distance. Or it did, until the Pinochet tea-party set nerves a-twanging once more.

How was it, really? Did she change everything, or was it an hallucination? This is not a political analysis. Others do them better. Nor is it a detailed account of how the doctrine of raw market forces rose and fell again (to the point that even Peter Lilley retreated from it yesterday). It is just an attempt to remember the chaotic, fiery, confusing *feelings* of the Thatcher years.

Because, have no doubt about it, the Thatcher thing was about feelings as much as policies. This was the most emotionally charged leadership we have ever had. People worshipped and loathed her with equal irrationality. While she was on stage nobody else counted: those who call Mr Blair "presidential" forget those Thatcher beams of lighthouse intensity, and how they drained the colour from all around her. He is, in comparison, a modest mouse.

Future historians will miss the point if they only study what the Thatcher Governments actually did, although there was plenty. They must understand the feelings: the devoted tears of the last ministerial loyalists, the loopy gallantry of Alan Clark's diary references to "The Lady", and the surges of frighteningly personal hatred for "Thatch" in hitherto mild people. Alongside the legal records and Cabinet papers they must somehow weigh the chants of "Maggie, Maggie, Maggie — out, out, out!", the myriad family rows and doorslammings over her, and the way that tots in the school playground mysteriously and unselfconsciously took to chanting:

"Missis Thatcher — stick her in the bin
Put the lid on — Sellotape her in!"

Only thus can these historians grasp how it was with this woman: this half-magnificent, half-ludicrous figure who took TV cameras on tours of her wardrobe and spoke sentimentally of her father, before going back to pulverise opponents at Question Time; who rode the rage of nurses and teachers, yet relished being mobbed as a saviour by Polish shipworkers at Gdansk. They must try to understand how some followers — from romantic Old Etonians to medallion men — truly believed that she was the one clear light, while opponents hissed "That woman!" They must understand that she had no clear social constituency, but a fascination that either drew or repelled people of every type and class.

Libby Purves

They must deconstruct not only *Spitting Image* and the *Dear Bill* letters from *Private Eye*, but also the thousands of non-political media moments which got sucked in. There was a period in her second term when it felt as if the whole nation were a sullen teenager trying to escape a domineering mother. Down in the tranquil pastures of Radio 4 talk shows we were repeatedly warned not to let guests indulge in random Thatcher-bashing, and genuinely did our best. But spurts of venom kept breaking through, impelled by an insane *Zeitgeist*. You would be interviewing an expert on early catheters and he would suddenly veer off into "of course, since Thatcher wrecked the NHS . . ." You would move hastily to a nonagenarian balloonist and ask heartily "Well, Thelma, do you have any other ambitions?", only to hear a quavering voice replying: "Yes, I want to see that *wicked woman* go before I die."

There are reams to be written about policies, and Cabinet colleagues; but the volatile swirling emotion of the day only had one centre. Psychiatrists who had formerly used the question "Who is the PM?" as a test for dementia had to give it up, because by 1985 even the most demented patient knew the answer. Children growing up in the 1980s asked "Can a man be Pry Minister?"; yet Margaret Thatcher transcended gender.

But perhaps we were ready, needy, for such a dominatrix. The Britain of 20 years ago was greyly exhausted from a dark winter of uncollected rubbish and undug graves, and from the months of tedious brinkmanship and pact-making that had kept the Callaghan Government in power. Then this bright, bouffant bully sweeps in — with a majority of only 43 — and starts laying about her, fearless of unions and Europe alike, banging tables, setting down the law, defying ridicule, hectoring the city rioters of 1981 from a set consisting of an elegant Chippendale drum-table and a soft-shaded lamp, and then steaming through the Falklands war with cries of "Rejoice!" and "Failure? The possibility does not exist!" She was lucky there: a short sharp war, a broken Galtieri, and few of us ungrateful enough to point out that in her equally enthusiastic embrace of defence budget cuts her Government had actually sold *HMS Invincible* to Australia just beforehand, and had to claw the ship back.

But the point was that luck suited her. It intensified both the crazy worship and the crazy hate. The world went on changing; we all got PCs, yuppies were born, York Minster was struck by lightning, the miners caved in, and Special Branch raided the BBC's Glasgow offices. And still she was not rattled. The Broadwater Farm riot did not look like dethroning her, nor the Westland affair, nor the torrid business of the "unassailable" Chancellor Lawson; nor did Sir Claus Moser's devastating 1990 speech about how, because of ten years of cuts, "hundreds of thousands of children have educational experiences not worthy of a civilised nation". She fought her own line to the last ditch, knowing she was right, jeering at the European single currency as "cloud cuckoo land", and appearing like an avenging fury behind poor John Sergeant in Paris to defy her challengers.

In the end, history got her. In that winter of 1990 we sat at our kitchen table with a portable television, unable to rip ourselves away from the soap-operatic denouement of these unnerving years. At times, with the lunchtime news on, our relationship with the Tory party felt like living next door to a huge, dysfunctional family squabbling over whether to put Aunt Ada in a home. Once I got so wrapped up that I made an extra cup of tea, and was pushing it across the table towards the screen before I realised that it was an ashen Teddy Taylor I had made it for. The final legacy of her serpent fascination was that the party couldn't bring itself to reward the man who first challenged her, and elected a dull, safe kind chap instead; whereon the nation couldn't bring itself to reject her heir, and therefore gave the dull chap five dull years.

Maybe we needed them. Certainly, when I heard John Major's sober monotone announcing the Gulf War it felt as if a noisy band had marched off over the horizon. And the first time Mrs Thatcher appeared briefly on the news afterwards, more than one of us in the room jumped out of our skins with shock at hearing, once more, that breathy, insistent, hypnotic tone telling us what to think.

Hold the handrail tight this evening, chaps. She's not gone yet.

comment@the-times.co.uk

'Gordon Brown realised things in Scotland were getting out of hand at the weekend. His conclusion: the Union may soon be dead, long live the unions'

Jason Allardyce

It may not be his first priority, but if Donald Dewar succeeds in winning the elections to the first Scottish parliament for 300 years, he may not have much time to sip the celebratory champagne before he puts in an order for beer and sandwiches.

The leader of the Scottish Labour Party is just as keen as Tony Blair, in principle, to distance himself from the party's traditional paymasters. But the trade unions have other ideas. And the Iron Chancellor, of all people, has given them grounds for optimism.

Labour may be on course for victory in the May 6 elections to the parliament in Holyrood. But this week the trade union movement in Scotland has flexed its collectivist muscles. And Labour has been forced to accept that it simply cannot afford to antagonise the brothers.

Labour made a tactically astute start to the campaign, forcing the Scottish National Party on to the back foot over Kosovo and tax. But while Labour's low-tax stance hurt the nationalists, it also discomfited the unions. The General Council of the Scottish TUC declared that "if necessary" the parliament should use the so-called tartan tax to invest in public services. This old Labour sentiment was dangerously close to the nationalist line. And it wasn't just on tax that the brothers were off-message.

Then came the Private Finance Initiative. The policy, whereby private money is used to fund public works, allows Labour to promise new hospitals and school-building. But at a price.

Although the initials PFI still barely register in most voters' minds, the policy has become a focus of discontent on Labour's Left. According to the Left's champion in Scotland, the Labour MP John McAllion, the PFI is the means by which the ghost of Tory politics still haunts Scotland after an electoral exorcism in 1997. In practical terms, the unions believe that the use of the PFI will undermined their members' security, by removing their jobs from the public to the private sector.

The issue sparked the first real crisis of the Labour campaign last week, with the resignation from the party of Mark Irvine, one of the most powerful figures in Scotland's biggest union, Unison. He was worried about the "privatisation" of staff pay and conditions and says he can no longer "defend the indefensible". He was joined by Bob Thomson, the treasurer of the Scottish Labour Party and another big Unison name, who argued that sticking with the PFI would demoralise Labour activists and lose the party votes to the SNP. The nationalists dubbed this left-wing revolt "PFI Friday". Their hope that Labour traditionalists would grow restive during an aggressively Blairite campaign seemed to be coming true.

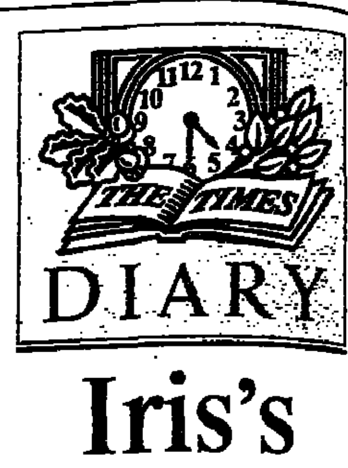
Which is why the Blair Government's most aggressive campaigner has swung into action. Gordon Brown realised things were getting out of hand at the weekend. He recognised that the growing *tendresse* between the trade unions and the SNP threatened another Union — that between England and Scotland. In order to prevent Labour's traditional supporters flirting any further with the separatists, he brokered a last-minute, old-style deal intended to head off a full-scale revolt when PFI is discussed at the STUC conference today. His conclusion seemed to be: the Union may soon be dead, so long live the unions.

Labour has told the brothers that they can have a role in selecting PFI bidders for hospitals, that wages and conditions will be guaranteed for an initial period and temporary contracts will be scrapped. Oh, and they could come to a breakfast with Mr Brown, Mr Dewar and leading figures from industry, just to prove that the party wasn't ashamed of its old friends when entertaining its new buddies in business.

It didn't satisfy the workers entirely but it was enough to water down an STUC motion critical of Labour and PFI. And it was also enough to prove a point. However much new Labour may resent their influence, the unions have to be appeased when the party is in trouble.

The unions, and their allies on the Left, could prove a thorn in the Labour leadership's side in the Scottish parliament. Difficulties could come not just from people such as John McAllion and Cathy Jamieson, on the far Left, but from any of about 20 likely MSPs. Because Labour is unlikely to win an outright majority in the new parliament, even a handful of rebels could cause chaos. The unions can hold a gun to the party's head whenever elections come around; the party's own MSPs can do so whenever a difficult vote arises — and that could be often. Better get the beers in, Donald.

jason.allardyce@the-times.co.uk



Iris's love

ONE of literature's most passionate love stories is to be told at last. For years it was insisted that Dame Iris Murdoch was merely a devoted friend of Elias Canetti, the Nobel prizewinner. But John Bayley is to confirm that his late wife, below, was the author's lover. In his forthcoming second book on Murdoch, Bayley likens the late author, pictured, of *Auto-da-Fé* to Pluto, god of the underworld, and refers to his crocodile smile.

Bayley, who nursed Iris through Alzheimer's, recalls an encounter with Canetti, a "massive, squat saturnine man". "He is the primal power figure. Iris's one-time lover, tyrant, dominator and master. Teacher, too, and inspiration. The great, all-knowing *Dicher*." (This was Bayley's name for the succession of quill twirlers who chased Murdoch so energetically.)

Bayley recalls his emotions during the height of his wife's affair: "I was terrified he would carry her off into his own dark underworld. But Iris escaped, fortunately for me."





CHRISTMAS has arrived in leisurely fashion for the natives of St Helena, Napoleon's Atlantic bolthole. Royal Mail toilers here let 113 sacks of presents stack up in the sorting office — missing several sailings of the island's sole supply ship. Observing the newly arrived tinsel, the Jamestown postmistress, Iva Henry, reflects: "The bubble has rather burst on Christmas by now."

■ FAY WELDON is attempting to journey to Belgrade to talk sense to Slobodan Milosevic. Her solution? Serb women should deny their hungry menfolk nocturnal pleasures (not always easy). "Historically, female entreaty has worked, this time there isn't any," Weldon tells me. She points to Lysistrata's successful sex strike to end the war with Sparta. "I'm all for entering the heart of the evil empire. If anyone would send me, I'd go."

JILLY COOPER is taking her first holiday for 12 years thanks to the quarantine laws being abolished. She and hubbie Leo have stayed in Blighty as they hate leaving Hero and Bessie, but they are now off New Zealand.

■ CONGRATULATIONS to James Burnell-Nugent, Captain of *HMS Invincible*. I gather he is to be promoted to Rear-Admiral, just as he shouts "chocks away" from the bridge in the Adriatic. Sadly, the news has come too late to add the extra ring to his uniform for a portrait he commissioned recently of himself as a gift to his wife.



ROGER MOORE seems to be rattling more than he is shaking or stirring these days. As he waddled out of Harrods, clutching the famous bags (olives for the Martinis, clip-on bow-ties and a bumper issue of Reader's Digest*) a mature shopper from Barnsley way squealed. He raised an eyebrow, then sighed: "Sure doesn't feel like Bond any more."*

A GUITAR is emerging as the Tories' most potent weapon. Set to deliver a dry speech to the Lord's Taverners yesterday, Michael Ancram, party chairman, strummed *Streets of London* expertly, paying tribute to the Marathon £1 million raiser John Spurling. When asked if he might run the Marathon, Ancram was joined by Sir Tim Rice to bang out *That'll Be the Day*, to wild applause.

A STERNER sort is Commander Hugh Orde of the Met. In charge of the bomb investigations in Brixton, the supercop stayed up so late that he never got to bed — and changed in the back of a van before running the Marathon.

JASPER GERARD





CHANGING GEAR

Blair and Ahern need to stick to the Hillsborough declaration

Sinn Fein and the main loyalist paramilitary organisations may not agree upon much but on two subjects they remain united: none will even initiate the decommissioning of arms and all believe the Good Friday agreement to be in a dire state because of the continued insistence of democratic politicians in the Province that some disarmament must soon take place. According to Gerry Adams the peace process is currently in "free fall". Billy Hutchinson of the Popular Unionist Party has described the Hillsborough declaration issued by Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern as "dead in the water". The clear, if perverse, message is that the terrorists must be allowed to retain their arsenals; if not, then they may be inclined to use them.

All of this will have been depressingly familiar to Mr Blair and Mr Ahern as they conducted yet another round of talks in London yesterday. The two Prime Ministers had hoped that the carefully crafted language deployed in their declaration issued three weeks ago might allow at least one paramilitary faction to engage in what is today described as a "collective act of reconciliation" and that this in turn would bring irresistible pressure to bear upon the rest. This has plainly not happened. There is little evidence that Sinn Fein in particular has made any movement in this direction. Another set of meetings has been scheduled next week. It would be surprising if there were any really dramatic new developments in the intervening days.

This is not to engage in mere fatalism. The Hillsborough declaration, for all its various linguistic contortions, does provide a plausible formula for reviving the Good Friday agreement. Mr Blair and Mr Ahern have rightly insisted that some sacrifice be made by terrorists before their political representatives can take a formal part in the administration of Northern Ireland. Many Ulster Unionists will feel, and with solid reason, that the deposit of weaponry now being asked is almost pathetically modest when compared with the tangible benefits — most notably prisoner releases — that the IRA, UDA and UVF have extracted over the past 12 months. Nonetheless, David Trimble has so far managed to hold a majority of the majority in line.

This will not remain the case if Mr Blair and Mr Ahern dilute their own declaration. The essential task remains for the broadest possible collection of democratic politicians — the two Governments, Mr Trimble, John Hume and Seamus Mallon of the SDLP — to exercise maximum pressure on loyalist and republican paramilitaries alike to accept the declaration and act upon it. That pan-democratic coalition will only be credible and effective if the terrorists are convinced that they cannot obtain any more concessions by playing for time and issuing threats.

This means that Mr Blair and Mr Ahern must be willing, if necessary, to place in suspension or, in the distinctive dialogue of these negotiations, "park" the Good Friday agreement should the IRA hold fast. This in turn would allow Mo Mowlam to place a moratorium on prisoner releases, a move that remains by far the Government's most powerful card if it is only willing to play it.

There are without doubt risks in this shift of strategy. The marching season will soon acquire a momentum of its own. A fresh clash at Drumcree beckons while last year's conflict at the same spot remains unresolved. The Rev Ian Paisley and his Democratic Unionist Party have resolved to turn the European Parliament elections into a *de facto* second referendum on the Good Friday agreement. The temptation for the Government is to stumble on in the hope that the IRA will come to reconsider its position. It will not do so unless obliged to do so. Mr Blair and Mr Ahern need to change gear, not to change their direction.

EAST TIMOR'S AGONY

Indonesia is not delivering on its political promises

Hundreds of East Timorese were yesterday fleeing their capital, Dili, as knife-wielding thugs attacked anyone suspected of supporting independence for the former Portuguese colony. At least 30 people were killed at the weekend. But Indonesian troops made little effort to stop the violence of militias trying to intimidate pro-independence factions. Jakarta has promised autonomy for the troubled province; but its cynical encouragement of loyalists rampaging through the streets must now call into question the Government's sincerity. With thousands of refugees hiding in the mountains, President Habibie's negotiators will have a hard time explaining their policies in New York on Thursday.

The outside world has done little to stop the bloodshed that has darkened the lives of East Timor's 900,000 people for a generation. Invaded by Indonesia months after Portugal set them free in 1975, East Timor been ruled with all the brutality of an oppressive police state. A 15,000-man Army is stationed on the half-island to enforce the diktat of Jakarta, which styles East Timor its 27th province. The Roman Catholic faith of the East Timorese has been aggressively discouraged, their Tetum language banned in favour of Bahasa Indonesia, and their leaders imprisoned. While 100,000 Muslim Indonesians have settled the territory, 200,000 East Timorese have been killed or starved to death.

Since President Suharto was swept away last year by nationwide rioting the new Government has rethought an occupation that is draining its treasury and the goodwill of trading partners. In January Mr Habibie proposed a take-it-or-leave-it solution. The East Timorese will vote in July on whether to accept broad autonomy under Jakarta, abandoning their demands for independence, or to reject it and move towards full independence within a year.

There was dancing in the streets — prematurely. Communal violence has escalated, pitting the separatist Timorese against militias backed by Indonesian police and soldiers. On April 6, 2,000 terrified villagers hid in the church at Liquica, west of Dili. The Indonesian police fired teargas at them; as they fled, they were chopped down with swords.

Whether Jakarta is willing to honour its promises remains in doubt. The East Timorese activist Jose Ramos-Horta has accused the Government of keeping the territory short of food to blunt its desire for independence. And there is strong evidence that Jakarta is covertly arming integrationist militias, in the hope of creating a situation so chaotic that the vote has to be postponed or cancelled. Integrationists fear the withdrawal of Jakarta's troops would prompt civil war. East Timor has a fragile economy. It grows little but coffee and has virtually no industry. Half its income comes from Jakarta to pay the wages of 24,000 civil servants.

The plan is still edging forward. On Thursday Ali Alatas, the Foreign Minister, will show the autonomy proposals to Portugal, the UN mediator. If they are approved, UN monitors will arrive in Dili by late May. There must be no delay. By August, after its first democratic elections in 44 years, Indonesia will have a new parliament and President who may backtrack on Mr Habibie's offer. The East Timorese need justice now, before their case is destroyed by violence.

FUNNY BUSINESS

Clowning is for all ages and by many means

Laughter is said to be a gift of the gods, a medicine for the human mind. The clown offers a tonic to a puzzled society. From the bald-headed buffoon of ancient farce to the softened figure of the French Pierrot, this maverick has exerted a timeless power, breaking barriers with his humour, uniting peoples in shared fun. Now, for the first time, a British performer has been elected International Clown of the Year.

Kooky, alias Andy Stevens, is, astonishingly, the first non-American to win the post. He deploys a gently ribbing party routine in which under-sevens are set happily giggling by silly jokes and teasing stunts. Dressed in baggy tartan and an orange wig, he perpetuates the 1860s model of Auguste, a red-nosed prankster whose penchant was to pop up at the most inappropriate moment, spoiling the routines of his pallid-faced partner.

It is easy to see why young children are enchanted. They delight in the practice of lack of respect, in the idea of the adult descended to their level, in the overturning of proprieties so often sent to plague them. But the most stretching clowns trade in universal human emotion, their humour unrestricted by age or culture or belief. Adults by now are wearily accustomed to the safe traditions of slapstick and custard pies. Such japes comply with rather than overturn the conventions of a society. The modern clown should be willing to test the blade of the cutting edge.

This outsider's humour has long hinted at the arts of insurrection, of the bewilderment swelling under society's veneer. "And if I laugh at any mortal thing, 'tis that I may not weep," wrote Byron. Humour awakens bittersweet emotions, sharpening sensitivities to the human predicament, to the pains and absurdities of life.

Earlier this year, when Anton Adassinsky and his Russian clown troupe, Devero, performed in London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, they brought surreal horror as well as silly humour. Slava's *Snowshow*, currently running in the West End, makes cruel jest of suicide. Such disparities speak more clearly than conventions. Why else did Robert Begnini achieve unprecedented triumph in the Oscars? His juxtaposition of farce and the Holocaust probed precarious sentiments. Any who saw *Life is Beautiful*, whether they loved it or loathed it, must have sensed that half-thrilling, half-scary, surge of feeling which comes when restraints are dangerously unloosed.

Such works reset in contemporary context the ancient transformative spirit of clowning. They return their viewers to some instinctive sense, opening poignant perceptions on to the plight of man. British clowns should not forget that their role was descended from the Vice character of the medieval mystery plays, a prankster capable of deceiving even the Devil — and at the same time arousing that laughter which is the gift of God.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Bias' and 'spin' in Kosovo reports

From the President and four Vice-Presidents of the English Centre of International PEN

Sir, Freedom of expression is notoriously one of the first casualties of war. Before Nato bombs began to fall, there was an active and vocal opposition to the tyrannical regime of Slobodan Milosevic with its vile policy of slaughter and ethnic cleansing of the Kosovo Albanians.

Among the Serbian dissidents there were, as usual, writers and other intellectuals who, of course, received little or no encouragement, certainly no practical help, from the countries now bombing them.

It is an unfortunate fact that, as a result of Nato action, the opposition has been silenced, isolated and endangered. Milosevic's supporters have murdered the newspaper editor Slavko Curuvija (report, April 12), and we are informed that all opposition leaders now live in fear of their lives from the regime's murderous gangs.

We wish to draw attention to the plight of these Serbs who are our natural allies and whose position is now so precarious. It may help if Nato concentrated on bombarding Belgrade not with high explosives but with leaflets informing the Serbs of the horrors Milosevic has unleashed in their name, a tactic used with considerable success in the Second World War.

It is a disturbing comment on our own attitude to freedom of expression that when John Simpson (letters, April 17) accurately reported the drawing together of many Serbs behind Milosevic as one of the outcomes of the bombing campaign, he was accused of being pro-Serbian. But then, Serbian statements are called propaganda and ours are known as spin. Both terms are deplorable.

If we cannot have peace let us at least have truth.

Yours truly,
RACHEL BILLINGTON,
President.
ANTONIA FRASER,
RONALD HARWOOD,
HAROLD PINTER,
JASPER RIDLEY,
English Centre of International PEN,
7 Dilke Street, Chelsea SW3 4JE.
April 19.

From Sir Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, I yield to no one in my admiration for John Simpson, his integrity and courage. But I feel considerable unease at his present assignment, representing as he does the principal broadcasting authority of a country which is at war with the country where he is at present living. He remains there courtesy of the Serbian Government, which is presumably content to let him remain so long as from time to time his reports include items favourable to it, such as its claim that the airstrikes have made little or no impact on government or people, which may or may not be true.

I think that Simpson has been placed in an impossibly ambivalent position, trying to reconcile his hopes that his countrymen risking their lives over Yugoslavia may yet be successful, with "objective" reporting on the situation as viewed by the enemy in Belgrade. This seems to me to be a contradiction in terms.

Yours etc,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
Ashdown,
Avebury, Wiltshire SN8 1FF.
April 18.

From Mr Vincent Campbell

Sir, It seems remarkable to me that the Government should accuse John Simpson of pro-Serbian bias when every report he gives is prefixed by a comment about reporting restrictions.

Nato, the MoD and the Allied Governments have controlled information and have conducted propaganda every bit as intensively as the Serbs, yet British broadcast journalists have persistently failed to prefix their reporting accordingly. Nato information is presented as fact, and even when visual evidence appears to contradict Nato, as in the cases of the bombed train and now the bombed civilians, British journalists describe such events as confused or uncertain, rather than saying that Nato might actually be lying.

If the Government is indeed trying to pressurise journalists in this way it means only one thing — the war is going worse than anticipated.

We have seen journalists blamed for simply trying to report events in the Falklands and in Vietnam. In the case of Kosovo, however, the clear difference is the extent to which British journalists, with limited access to the war zone, are reliant on Nato sources and yet fail to acknowledge this in their reporting. BBC journalism isn't being overly neutral or sympathetic to the Serbs; it is pro-Nato, and ardently so.

Yours faithfully,
VINCENT CAMPBELL
(Teaching fellow),
Department of Film and
Media Studies,
University of Stirling FK9 4LA.
April 19.

Letters to the Editor for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046 — or by e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

The Chris Woodhead 'conspiracy'

From Mrs Julie Savage

Sir, I am not a teacher, my children have left school, and I am not a member of any political party, but the reporting of "The Woodhead 'conspiracy'" (April 14) troubles me insofar as it appears to focus on Chris Woodhead's critics rather than the issues they raise.

It would seem that Mr Woodhead has a particular talent for assessing academic standards and challenging mediocrity and defensiveness. He also has a more formidable leadership role and responsibility to ensure that schools help to equip young people with sound ethical values and a robust moral framework by which they can develop the skills and principles which will enable them to play their part in building and maintaining a healthy society.

He has been judged effective in his job thus far, but this is not sufficient reason for the Secretary of State to seek to dismiss the questions raised by Mr Woodhead's former wife by unpleasant attacks on her motives (report, April 12: Libby Purves, April 13) and by allegations of left-wing political opportunism.

If Mr Woodhead had an affair with a pupil whilst a teacher in the Seventies, it was a serious breach of trust at that time but it is not the issue today. We do, however, need to know whether he is a man of integrity and whether his behaviour now, and that of Mr David Blunkett, reflect the high standards we have a right to expect from the holders of such important and influential roles.

Yours faithfully,
JULIE SAVAGE,
Newstead, Montrose Terrace,
Bridge of Weir,
Renfrewshire PA11 3DD.
April 14.

From Mr Tom Burkard

Sir, David Blunkett deserves full credit for resisting the hypocritical campaign against Chris Woodhead (report, April 17). I seriously doubt that anyone would take notice of quarter-century-old staffroom gossip — or the hearsay of an ex-wife — were it not for the Chief Inspector's success in winning the intellectual and political debate on educational methods.

I suspect what really rankles in the hearts of the ideologues who are going for his blood is that even we teachers are beginning to see the point of Chris Woodhead. Our profession will not regain public respect (to say nothing of decent pay agreements) until we get our act together and stop blaming everyone else for our failure to teach our pupils how to read and write.

Yours etc,
TOM BURKARD,
Riverside Farm,
Easton, Norwich NR9 5EP.
t.burkard@netcom.co.uk
April 17.

From Mr Tony Robinson

Sir, Apart from a brief conversation about Cornish folklore, I haven't been in touch with one of my alleged accomplices dedicated to the overthrow of the Chief Inspector of Schools for over a year, and I've not spoken to the other for months.

My contribution has been limited to a short statement to a Sunday newspaper which became aware that I knew about the affair. Why you should wish to transform this prosaic reality into "a carefully timed media offensive by a trio of experienced political activists" I leave your readers to judge.

My one crumb of comfort is that while friends and critics alike see me as a respectable, middle-aged Blairite, at least the good old *Times* still categorises me as a trouble-making leftie. Thank you.

Yours faithfully,
TONY ROBINSON,
c/o Kate Feast Management,
10 Primrose Hill,
Fitzroy Road, NW1 8TR.
April 15.

From Ms Kate Illingworth

Sir, As an "experienced political activist" I appear to have been astonishingly naive in allegedly making such frank disclosures to Andrew Pierce about my thoughts and feelings on the Chris Woodhead affair. I seem to make a poor showing as a conspirator.

Yours sincerely,
KATE ILLINGWORTH,
36 Albert Park Place,
Montpelier, Bristol BS6 5ND.
April 14.

New D-G for the BBC

From Mr George Fischer

Sir, William Rees-Mogg managed to write about the BBC's future (article, April 12) without uttering the highly unfashionable words public service broadcasting.

The idea used to be at the heart of the Corporation. Enabled by the licence fee, the BBC's aim was to be uninfluenced by political and commercial pressure while informing, educating and entertaining the public. It was the high degree of resistance to political and commercial pressure that set the BBC apart from other broadcasters and, indeed, the press.

Whoever the Governors appoint, the new Director-General will not be able to undo the debilitating combination of half-hearted public service and commercial spirit brought about by ineffectual governors and mediocre director-generals since the late Seventies.

Over the past 25 years or so the governors and the senior executives have mistaken management for leadership, the size of the Corporation's constituency for its standing and the obsession with the proliferation of the means of distribution for dedication to public service.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE FISCHER,
6c Highland Road,
Bromley, Kent BR1 4AD.

From Sir Christopher Bland, Chairman of the BBC Governors

Sir, For the record, the appointment of the Director-General of the BBC (reports, April 17) is the responsibility of the Governors alone. The political independence of the BBC has always been jealously guarded; there has been, and will be, no discussion of any candidates with any politicians of any party.

The best man or woman for the job will be appointed by the 12 Governors following a rigorous, careful and objective selection process. The field, which includes internal and external candidates, is genuinely open.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER BLAND,
Chairman,
British Broadcasting Corporation,
Broadcasting House,
Portland Place, W1A 1AA.
April 17.

Sand eel fishing

From Dr A. L. Rennie

Sir, You report (April 13) the welcome news that scientists advising the European Commission are to propose a ban — even if only a seasonal one — on sand eel fishing off the northeast coast of Britain. What seems strange to me is that it has taken a threat to seabird populations to bring this about. It is well known that these plankton-eating little fish form a vital source of food for the once vast stocks in the North Sea of the kinds of fish caught for us to eat. The decline in sand eels has directly affected the breeding success of these larger fish.

It is a sad commentary on our priorities that the human populations dependent on fish stocks, measured by the large and rapid decline over recent decades in those engaged in fishing and its ancillary industries and services, are clearly of less importance than the breeding success of the kittiwake — interesting and beautiful as these birds are.

Yours sincerely,
A. L. RENNIE,
Wellwynd House, South Street,
Elie, Fife KY9 1DN.
April 13.

Making a packet

From Mr Jeremy Burrows

Sir, I have not the slightest idea how much I pay Britain's richest businessman to make the packaging in which most of the food I buy is wrapped (letter, April 16), but would willingly pay him twice as much not to.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY BURROWS,
8 Dorchester Way,
Elstow, Bedford MK42 9FF.
April 17.

Pedals on the Isis

From Captain Peter Adams

Sir, One must hope that Ben Johnson, president of the Junior Common Room at Magdalen College, Oxford, is not a student of history. His observation on the candy-striped, pedal-powered craft on the Isis (report and photograph, April 15) that "the most common punting customers are Italians, who are not natural sailors" is breathtaking.

Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci crossed unknown oceans when the English were just able to ship wine up the coast from Bordeaux.

Has Mr Johnson not heard of the great fleets of the maritime republics of Genoa, Venice, Pisa and Amalfi, or the Roman grain ships of 1,000 tons' capacity, so splendid that their masters' staterooms had mosaic floors and were not surpassed in carrying capacity for 1,800 years?

He should beware of sticking a punt pole in the Isis mud while Britain takes delivery of yet another giant cruise ship from Italian yards.

Yours faithfully,
P. M. ADAMS
(Master mariner),
62 Main Street,
Lambley, Nottinghamshire NG4 4PP.
April 15.

From Mr P. W. B. Semmens

Sir, Of course the "pedalo punts" are unsuitable for use on a river in Oxford. They are predominantly *light* blue in colour.

Yours faithfully,
PETER SEMMENS,
Danvers, 21 Springfield Road,
Upper Poppleton,
York YO26 6JL.
April 15.

Liverpool's 'lost' war memorial

From Mr Hal Giblin

Sir, When Sir Paul McCartney's (and my) old school, the Liverpool Institute High School, was converted, at great expense, to become the Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts — Britain's own *Fame* school — concerned old boys of the school sought assurances from the trustees and the architects that the old school's two war memorials would be incorporated into the reconstruction.

In the event, we were told that financial considerations made this impossible for the time being, but until the situation could be remedied the memorials would be in safe keeping.

It is perhaps surprising, therefore, that two of my friends, Major David Evans and Mr George Donnison, were recently able to "rescue" the school's Second World War memorial by purchasing it for £10 from a second-hand furniture dealer in the city. A bargain, at about 12p a name, the dealer suggested. Apparently, items of this nature are bought to "decorate" restaurants, pubs, etc.

The 83 men recorded on the memorial include a "Dambuster" and a casualty from the D-Day landings as well as flyers, sailors and soldiers buried and commemorated all over the world.

Sincerely,
HAL GIBLIN,
10 Blundell Grove,
Hightown, nr Liverpool L38 9EB.
100446.161@compuserve.com
April 15.

Hollywood wars

From Mr David Moles

Sir, While I can't deny that Hollywood produces far too many lighthearted "war" films, and that my countrymen have a sad tendency to be hawkish right up to the point the body bags start coming in, I am amazed at one example cited by Ben Macintyre ("US lulled Hollywood myth of bloodless war", April 7). *Rambo* has every defect imaginable, but *Saving Private Ryan* hardly depicts a "bloodless war". Almost every major character is killed, most of them in rather gruesome ways.

I have been encouraging everyone I know to see the film in the hope that it may give them a better idea of what they're voting for when they vote to send in the troops.

Regards,
DAVID MOLES,
18-12-301 Sarugaku-cho,
Shibuya-ku, 150-0033 Tokyo, Japan.
April 8.

Loss of contact

From Mr David H. Walton

Sir, Dr A. A. Surgeon-Frame's frustrating experience with Directory Enquiries (letter, April 12) seems to me to be fairly typical of the BT services. It is also expensive when compared with what is on offer in Australia. There they have a free "White Pages" service for anyone connected to the Internet.

You only need to know the surname and roughly the area where the residence or business is located. A list of possibles can be scanned until the correct one is found, or a wider search may be attempted. The service then offers a street map, which goes to the exact spot of the phone number/address located. Whilst the maps are sometimes a little slow in loading on to the screen the service is very good.

Yours truly,
DAVID WALTON,
10 St Guthlac's Close,
Crowland, Peterborough PE6 0ES.
April 12.

From Mrs Angela Laing

Sir, My own recent contact with Directory Enquiries has led me to believe that devolution has come early to Scotland.

Requiring a number at Eton College, I made two calls, both of which were answered in Glasgow by gentlemen operators who, between them, produced the following responses: no such name existed; was the college part of a university? Where was Berkshire? No spelling for Eton existed; it must be Eaton.

In desperation I said that this was the rather famous school attended by Prince William — eliciting the response: "Who?"

Eventually I was given a number. The wrong one.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA LAING,
The Armoury Flat,
Epsom College,
Epsom, Surrey KT17 4JQ.
April 12.

Makes you sick

From Mr N. J. Inkley

Sir, Insurance has taken on a whole new meaning for me.

Through the post has come an offer of healthcare. I am told " . . . you can even have a free 14-day trial . . . (as long as you don't make a claim during the 14 days)".

Perhaps that at least deserves a Kitemark for honesty.

Yours,
NEIL INKLEY,
6 Knot Lane, Walton-le-Dale,
Preston, Lancashire PR5 4BQ.
April 19.



COURT CIRCULAR

HYATT HOTEL, SEOUL
April 19: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh arrived in The Republic of Korea this afternoon and were welcomed at the Military Airbase, Seoul, by the Foreign Minister (Mr Hong Soon-young).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness drove to the National Cemetery and laid a wreath.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were subsequently welcomed at the Blue House by His Excellency President Kim Dae-jung and the First Lady, Mrs Lee Hee-Ho.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness later visited Midong Elementary School and watched a display of Taekwondo. They later received Commonwealth Ambassadors at the Hyatt Hotel.

The Lord Faringdon, Lord in Waiting, was present at Heathrow Airport, London this morning upon the Arrival of The President of the Federative Republic of Brazil and Senhora Cardoso, and welcomed His Excellency and Senhora Cardoso on behalf of The Queen.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 19: The Prince of Wales, as President of Business in the Community, held the Report Back for the Camborne and Redruth "Seeing is Believing" visit.

His Royal Highness this afternoon held a reception for St George's School, Windsor Castle, in support of the £2 million Development Campaign.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 19: The Princess Royal, President, Animal Health Trust, today attended the Lord's Taverners Spring Luncheon at the London Hilton on Park Lane, London.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 19: The Duchess of Gloucester today visited Merseyside and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Mr Alan Waterworth).

Her Royal Highness, Honorary President, Lawn Tennis Association, visited the Wirral Tennis and Sports Centre, Birkenhead, Wirral, Merseyside.

The Duchess of Gloucester afterwards visited West Kirby Residential School and opened the new residential unit, Wirral.

Her Royal Highness later opened Claire House Children's Hospice, Bebingtoin, Wirral, Merseyside.

Today's royal engagements

Prince Edward, as chairman, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, will hold a luncheon at 12.10 in support of the Gold Millennium Encounter, a joint venture between the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the President's Award — Gaisce. Ms Mary McAleese, President of Ireland, will also attend.

The Duke of Gloucester, patron, the Construction Industry Trust for Youth, will attend a piano recital, Drapers' Hall, London EC2 at 7.10.

For more details about the Royal Family visit the royal website at: www.royal.gov.uk

Memorial service

Mr Henry Mott
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Henry Mott, a former Master and Clerk of the Plaisterers' Company, was held yesterday at St Lawrence Jewry-next-Guildhall. The Very Rev Randolph Wise officiated.

Mr E.J. Pilgrim, Master of the Plaisterers' Company, read the lesson and Mr R. Vickers, Clerk, read from the works of R.W. Emerson. Professor P. Hungin, son-in-law, gave an address. Among others present were:

Mrs J Turner, Ms C Palmer and Mrs P Hungin (daughters) and other members of the family; the Wardens and Court of Assistants of the Plaisterers' Company and the Masters and Clerks of City livery companies.

Latest wills

Dame Iris **Murdoch**, novelist and philosopher, of Oxford, left estate valued at £1,803,231 net.

Luncheons

Lord Mayor of Westminster
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster were the hosts at a luncheon held yesterday at City Hall. The Ambassador of Uganda, Councillor Kevin Gardner and Baroness Gardner of Parkes and those having cultural and business interests in the City of Westminster were among those present.

Monday Luncheon Club
Mr Bruce Anderson, Political Editor of *The Spectator*, was the principal guest at a luncheon of the Monday Luncheon Club held yesterday at the Savoy Hotel. Mr Roland Shaw presided.

Rotary Club of London
Sir Edward Heath, KG, MP, was the speaker at a luncheon of the Rotary Club of London held yesterday at the Portman Hotel. Mr John Buchanan, president, was in the chair.

Meeting

Capital Value Brokers
Mr Keith Daniels, President of the Institute of Taxation, who spoke on "European Tax Harmonisation" was guest speaker at the Capital Value Brokers' discussion group meeting held at the Ritz Hotel yesterday.

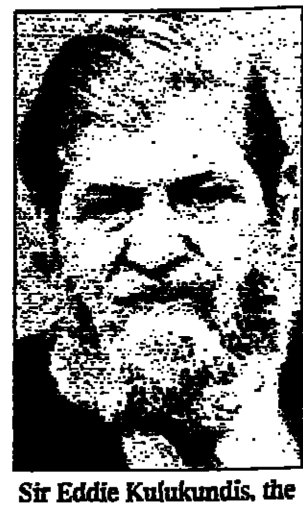
RAF appointments

AIR COMMODORE: W J Pike, HQ DSCA, 23.4.99.
GROUP CAPTAIN: P J Drissell, HQSTC, 23.4.99.
Retirement
Group Captain I F Hendley, 22.4.99.

Birthdays today

The actress Jessica Lange, who is 50 today

Viscount Allenby, 68; Mr Alan Beith, MP, 56; Professor Sir Derek Bowett, QC, former President, Queens' College, Cambridge, 72; Mr Ray Brooks, actor, 60; Sir Geoffrey Chipperfield, civil servant, 66; the Right Rev Frederick Darwent, former Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, 72; Mr Richard de Lange, former chairman, Philips Electronics UK, 54; the Earl of Erroll, 51; Mr Sebastian Faulks, writer, 46; Professor Francis Fish, former Dean, School of Pharmacy, London University, 75; Mr Graeme Fowler, cricketer, 42; Sir John Eliot Gardiner, conductor, 56; Mr Giles Henderson, senior partner, Slaughter and May, 57; Mr Andrew Jaspan, former Editor, *The Observer*, 47; Sir Antony Jay, scriptwriter, 69; Sir Eddie Kulukundis, theatrical producer, 67; Miss Jessica Lange, actress, 50; Mr Cy Laurie, jazz clarinettist, 73; Mr Nicholas Lyndhurst, actor, 38; Mr Leslie Phillips, actor, 75; Sir John Quicke, agriculturist, 77; Mr Richard Rhodes, Headmaster, Rossall School, 57; Mr Hugh Roberts, Director of the Royal Collection, 51; Mr Christopher Robinson, organist, 63; Miss Jean Southworth, QC, 73; Mr Luther Vandross, singer, 48; Air Marshal Sir Richard Wakeford, 77; Mr Henry Wrong, former director, Barbican Centre, 69.



Sir Eddie Kulukundis, the theatrical producer, 67

Schools news

Benenden School
Term started yesterday at Benenden School. Open mornings for parents of prospective students will be held on May 8 and June 12. In celebration of Benenden's 75th Anniversary, there will be a Decade Lunch for 1950s Seniors on April 24 at Benenden. A Luncheon and Awards Ceremony to Celebrate 75 Years of Women's Achievement will be held at The Savoy Hotel, London WC2 on April 22. A Jubilee Ball will take place at the School on June 26 and a Charity Fair will be held on June 27. For details of these events, please contact the *Jubilee* Clerk on 01580 240075. Seniors' Day will take place on May 15. Speaker of the Year will be Rosalind Copisarow. All Seniors are warmly invited, especially leavers from 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989 and 1994. Speech Day will take place on July 3.

Churcher's College
Summer Term at Churcher's College begins today. Half-term is from May 29 to June 7. The Captains of Cricket are Christopher Godeseth and Steven Barrett. The Old Churcherian Club and Society London Dinner will be held at the East India Club on Friday, May 14, and members are invited to the annual OCC Cricket Match against the 1st XI on Saturday, July 3, starting at 11am. Open Day will be held on Saturday, July 3, from 10am to 3pm and Sports Day is on Wednesday, June 30. Term ends on July 9.

Cobham Hall
The Summer Term began yesterday at Cobham Hall. The new Guardian is Camilla Peevers and the Deputy Guardians are Sarah Powell and Hayley Roberts. There is an Open Day for parents of prospective pupils on Saturday, May 8, and Elders' Day is on Saturday, May 15. Festival Day and the Unicorn Ball are on Saturday, July 3. Term ends on Sunday, July 4.

Dulwich College
The Summer Term begins today. Navindu Katugampola is appointed Captain of School and Nana Ampofo and Timothy Gardner Vice-Captains. Vikram Kumar is Captain of Cricket. The Inspecting Officer at the Combined Cadet Force Annual General Inspection on May 4 will be Captain Martin Alabaster, RN, OA. The Middle School Play to be performed at the Young Vic on Thursday, June 24, is Alan Ayckbourn's *Gizmo*. Founder's Day is July 3. The preacher at the Commemoration Service on Sunday, July 4, will be Canon Brian Andrews. Half Term is May 29 to June 6 and the term ends on July 8.

Giggleswick School
The Summer Term began yesterday with the opening of the new Dining Hall by the Marquess of Hartington, CBE. Speech Day is on Saturday, May 29, when the Chief Guest will be Sir John Boyd, KCMG, Master of Churchill College, Cambridge. The Commemoration Service will be taken by the Rev Gregory Cameron, MA, MPhil, LLM, Director of the Bloxham Project. Giggleswick will host the Northern Preparatory Schools Music Day on Thursday, May 6, and Catteral Hall, Giggleswick's Preparatory School, will hold an Open Day on Saturday, May 22. The Captain of Cricket is Jonathan Smailes and the First Eleven will play the MCC on Thursday, June 10. Sir Richard Hadlee will be the Guest of Honour at a Sports Dinner on Friday, May 7, and in the Summer holidays the First XI will tour Zimbabwe while the Rugby and Hockey squads visit Canada and the Canoe Club embark on an Alpine White Water Tour. Sports Day is on Friday, May 28. The Captains of Athletics are Mark Anderson and Elizabeth Smith and the Captains of Tennis are Arthur Adams and Rebecca Jeffries. Old Giggleswickians who left between 1956 and 1965 will be special guests at the Decadal Reunion on Saturday, May 1. Old Giggleswickians Day will take place on Saturday, July 3. Further information on any of these events is available from the Headmaster's Secretary on Tel: 01729 823545, Fax: 01729 824187.

E-mail: headmaster@giggleswick.n-yorks.sch.uk

Kimbolton School
Term starts today and ends on July 8. Speech Day is on May 29 when Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare will present the Prizes and open the new Vanbrugh Library. *The Winter's Tale* will be staged on July 1, 2 and 3, in the Lewis Hall. The Summer Concert will be on July 5. Old Kimboltonians' Day is on June 26 and the Annual Ball will be held in the Castle. Old Kimboltonians who have lost contact with the School are warmly encouraged to re-establish links by writing to the OKA office at the School address.

Latymer Upper School, W6
The Summer Term begins today at Latymer Upper School and ends on July 8. The Choral Society Concert perform Bach's *St John Passion* on May 5 at St Paul's Church, Hammersmith, and the Summer Concert is June 24. The Lower School play is on May 27 and 28. Captain of Cricket is James Martin, the 1st XI play the MCC on May 12. Captain of Boats is Mark Hughes.

The Leys School, Cambridge
The Summer Term began yesterday with Paul West and Kendra Butlin continuing as Senior Prefects. An Open Morning will be held on Saturday, May 15. There is a School Concert on Friday, May 7, and the Junior Play *But Not for Me* will be staged on June 28, 29 and 30, at 8pm. Term ends after Speech Day on July 3.

Pipers Corner School, High Wycombe
The Summer term begins today at Pipers Corner School, Great Kingshill. Seven scholarships have been awarded for Sixth Form studies this coming Autumn. Sports Day takes place on Thursday, July 1, and Parents' Day will be held on Saturday, July 10. The Board of Governors is very pleased to announce the appointment of Colonel R. Maxwell, MBE, as Bursar and Clerk to the Governors from August 1999, to succeed Captain J.P. Speller, OBE, Royal Navy, who is retiring.

Pocklington School
The Summer Term at Pocklington School, York, begins today. Old Pocklingtonian Day takes place, at the School, on Sunday, July 4, when there will be special reunions for 1949 leavers, and 1976/77 leavers. The term ends on Thursday, July 8, 1999.

Royal Grammar School, Guildford
The following awards are announced:
Academic Scholarships
7King's Scholarships: Christopher Eberhardt (Cranmore), James Strawson (Lanesborough).

Scholarships: David Broder (Lyndhurst), Daniel Browne (Hoe Bridge), Stuart Denison (Feltonfleet), Adam Emerson (Danes Hill), Luxshman Gopalakrishnan (Yateley Manor), Paul Holland (Langholme), Christopher Jackson (Waverley Abbey), Scott Murphy (Lanesborough), Jamie Parish (Danes Hill), Amour Patel (Downsend), Ben Randall (Cranmore), Piers Reynolds (Cranmore), Henry Sheldon (Cranmore), Michael Stuart-Matthews (Cranmore), Bob Thomas (Duke of Kent), Adam Tyler (Royal Kent), Guy Westwood (Cranmore), Alexander Wilson (Hoe Bridge), Tobias Wright (Cranmore).

Art Scholarship
Christopher Thompson (St Andrew's).
Music Scholarships
Colin Alexander (Lanesborough), Nicholas Bond (Cranmore), Alexander Spiers (RGS), Sebastian Spiers (Burpham), Michael Wilson (Busbridge), Thomas White (Lanesborough).

St Albans School
St Albans School is pleased to announce the following awards for entry in 1999:
Geoffrey Pryke Memorial Scholarships
11+: Pierre Hyde, Sherrardswood School; James Tasker, St Nicholas JMI, Harpenden. 13+: Saajan Chana, Beechwood Park School.
Nicholas Bacon Scholarship
Alexander Hutchings, Aldwickbury School.
L.G. Walker Scholarship
Simon Gardner, Oakwood JMI.
Peter Cox Scholarships
Stuart Gray, Lochinver House School; Andrew Seymour, Adlwickbury School.
Sixth Form Academic Scholarships
Rachel Briscoe, Beaumont School; Jenny Brooke, St Albans Girls' School; Vanessa Hare, St Albans High School for Girls; Emily Hartley, St Albans High School for Girls.
Music Scholarships
Nicholas Ireson, Beechwood Park School; Jamie Green, St Albans School; Jacob Ross, St Albans School; James Dorricott, Edge Grove School.
Art Scholarship
Keith Brown, Heath Mount School.

Summer Term begins today, Tuesday, April 20. Joint Heads of School will be Hayley Kirsop and Phillip Deacon. Deputy Heads of School will be Geoffrey Weaver and Holly Ripper. Founders' Day is on Saturday, July 3, when the preacher will be the Rev Tim Wright, Headmaster of The John Lyon School. This year's Gaudy is for OAs who left before 1945.

St Margaret's School, Bushey
The Summer Term at St Margaret's School, Bushey, begins today and ends on Friday, July 9. Celebrations continue this term to mark the 250th Anniversary of the foundation of the school. The Band of HM Royal Marines, Portsmouth, will give an open-air concert in the school grounds at 6.30pm on Saturday, May 15 (grounds open at 5.00pm for picnics) and Speech Day will be on Friday, July 9. The main Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Paul's Cathedral at 2.30pm on St Margaret's Day, November 16. Further information about all these events may be obtained from the School.

Reception

Nato
Vice-Admiral John McAnally, Commandant of the Royal College of Defence Studies, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, the Ambassador of Hungary and the Polish Ambassador received the guests at a reception held last night at Seaford House to mark the entry of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland into Nato. The Commandant and the Polish Ambassador were the speakers.

Dinners

Corporation of London
Alderman Sir Roger Cork, Lord Mayor *locum tenens*, Miss Judith Mayhew, Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, Corporation of London, and Mr Horst Köhler, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, received the guests at a dinner given by the Corporation of London on Sunday evening at the Mansion House to mark the annual meeting of the board of governors of the bank.

The Athenaeum
Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, OM, was the speaker at a talk dinner of the Athenaeum held last night at the club. Sir Patrick Cormack was in the chair.

Glovers' Company
Mr Malcolm Penney, Master of the Glovers' Company, presided at the company's education dinner held last night at Armoury House. Mr Tom Simmons, Town Clerk, accompanied by Mrs Simmons, the Master and Clerk of the Armourers' & Braziers' Company and the Masters of the Masons' and Musicians' Companies were the principal guests.

Representatives of the City of London School, the City of London School for Girls, the Lord Mayor Treloar's School and King Edward's School, Witley with their scholars were present.

Viscount Eccles, CH

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of the Right Hon Viscount Eccles, CH, KCVO, will take place in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at noon on Tuesday, June 8, 1999. All are welcome, and those wishing to attend are requested to apply for tickets, for this service only, to: The Rector's Secretary, Room 8, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, SW1P 3PA, enclosing a stamped (first class) addressed envelope. Tickets will be posted from May 26.

Church news

Canon Bruce Ruddock, Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome, has been appointed Residentiary Canon of Worcester Cathedral in succession to Canon David Glynne Thomas on his appointment as Dean of St John's Cathedral, Brisbane.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.E. Aglionby and Miss I.E. Kisjanto
The engagement is announced between John Edward, son of His Honour and Mrs Francis Aglionby, of Houghton, Carlisle, and Inawati Esther, daughter of Dr and Mrs Kisjanto, of Jakarta, Indonesia.

Mr C.E. Heading and Miss S.C. Willy
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs J. Heading, of Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, and Sarah, daughter of Judge and Mrs A. Willy, of Waipara, New Zealand.

Mr P.H. Marriage and Miss C.M.G. Cory-Pearce
The engagement is announced between Paul, youngest son of the late Mr Thomas Marriage and of Mrs Janet Ashton, of Wivenhoe, Essex, and Caroline, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Cory-Pearce, of Buckworth, Cambridgeshire.

Mr M. Oden, RM, and Miss E.J. Beavan
The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Mark Oden, RM, son of Mr and Mrs Carl Oden, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and Jane, daughter of the Rev Hugh and Mrs Beavan, of Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex.

Mr S.P. Orton and Miss J.C. Wick
The engagement is announced between Simon Paul, son of Mr Clive Orton and Ms Susan Lawson, and Jeannetta Clair, youngest daughter of Mr Cyril Wick and Mrs Lilian Slowe.

Mr D.W. Shore and Miss H.L. Godwin
The engagement is announced between David, second son of Mr and Mrs Allan Shore, of Wandsworth, London, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Godwin, of Harrow, Middlesex.

Mr P.R. Godwin and Miss B.L. Davison
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Godwin, of Harrow, Middlesex, and Belinda, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Davison, of Compton, Devon.

Marriages

Mr W. Weatherly and the Hon Mrs P. McCraith
The marriage has taken place in Southwell Minster, Nottinghamshire, on April 16, 1999, between William Weatherly, OBE, DFC, of Mortlake, Victoria, Australia, and Philippa McCraith, of Southwell, Nottinghamshire.

Mr A.B. Harvie-Clark and Mrs F.M.H. Esson
A service of blessing was held at St John's, Horsington, on April 17, after the marriage of Andrew Harvie-Clark and Fiona Esson.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Pietro Aretino, poet, Arezzo, Tuscany, 1492; *Adolf Hitler*, German dictator, Branau am Inn, Austria, 1889; Harold Lloyd, film comedian, Burchard, Nebraska, 1893; Joán Miró, abstract painter, Barcelona, 1893.

DEATHS: Eliza Burton, the "Maid of Kent", executed, London, 1534; Giovanni Antonio Canaletto, painter, Venice, 1768; Bram Stoker, author of *Dracula*, London, 1912; Archibald Macleish, poet and dramatist, 1982.

Oliver Cromwell dissolved the Long Parliament, 1653.

The first motor race was held in Paris with Georges Bouton as the only entrant, 1887.

Soviet troops entered Berlin, 1945.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures. Psalm 119.89-90 (NIV).

BIRTHS

BRIGGS - On April 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Sophia (née Christodoulou) and David, a son, Kristofer, a brother for Stefan.

BUNTING - On April 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Tracey Kerr and Frank, a beautiful little girl, Michaela Louise. Portland staff were wonderful.

CASILLAS - On April 13th at The Portland Hospital, to Wilfredo and Aarolyn, their 1st child, a son, Andreas Zavier.

CHARTENER - On 12th April 1999, in Washington, D.C., to Kate (née Allard) and Robert, a son, William John Robertson.

CHURCHWARD-STEEL - On April 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Vanessa (née Churchward-Viggers) and Jonathan, a daughter, Serena Elizabeth India.

COSTAIN - To Alison (née Ross) and Richard at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital on 15th April, a daughter Emily Eleanor.

DALY - On April 17th, to Alexandra (née Wright) and James, a daughter, Matilda (Tilly) Katherine Emily.

GILL - On April 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Wendy (née Martin) and John, a daughter, Amy Antonia, a sister for Michael and Jack.

GRAHAM - On April 15th 1999 at Heatherwood, Ascot, to Catriona and Alastair, a son, Fraser Donald, a brother for Hamish and Rosey.

LISTER-CHEESE - On April 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Katharina (née Stroh) and James, a daughter, Karlotta Sophie.

LUTTRELL - On Sunday 18th April 1999 at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, to Carmel (née Molan) and Simon, a daughter, Francesca Eleanor Maria, a sister for Heidi.

McKENZIE - On April 13th at The Portland Hospital, to Anthea and Derrick, a beautiful son, Kai James, 8lbs 6oz. Love and thanks to all staff concerned.

MERRYLEES - See Graham.

MILLER - On April 9th at The Portland Hospital, to Shelley and Tony, a daughter, April Hope, a sister for Aaron.

MUNDI - On April 5th, to Claudia (née Rae) and Jagjit, a daughter, Nadja Alessandra Johal.

NEVILE - On April 16th 1999, to Joanna (née Bathurst) and Hugh, a son, a brother for Max and Thomas.

PABALATE - On April 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Liza and Rob, a daughter, Renee Louise, a sister for Christian.

READ - On April 13th at The Portland Hospital, to Jill and Mayo, a daughter, Darby Hicks, a sister for Clayton.

REECE - On April 10th 1999, in Paris, to Alicia (Drake Reece) and Rupert, a daughter, Lily Colombina.

ROSS - On April 9th at The Portland Hospital, to Leigh (née Shepherd) and Ron, a son, Timothy William James, brother to Alexandra. 9th grandchild to Oriel. 5th to Pat and Bruce.

SLUSZNY - On April 9th at The Portland Hospital, to Joanne (née Dadoun) and Guy, a son, David Jake. First grandchild to both families.

TAILBY-FAULKES - On March 25th to Elizabeth and Andrew, a son, Hugo András, a brother for Imogen.

TURNER - Andy and Claire are proud to announce that Sarah Amy came into our lives quickly, but very joyously on 16th April 1999 at 04.55am in Auckland, NZ. We would like to thank all our friends and relatives in the UK and NZ, but especially a big thank you to Sarah for making our love complete.

VAN BUREN - On April 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Virpi and David, a daughter, Stella Charlotta, a sister for Olivia.

VOLPE - On April 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Allyson (née Schmid) and Santo, a daughter, Sofia Frances, at 18:29.

WAIN-LOWE - On April 14th *at The Portland Hospital*, to Nicolette (née Wain) and Chris, a son, Haydn, a brother for Samuel and Jacob.

ZEIGLER - On April 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Kaori (née Hanaoka) and *Alan*, a son, *Luke*, a brother for Elena.

ZIPERSKI - On April 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Robyn and James, a daughter, Laura, 7lbs 10oz, a sister for Andrew.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

HUGHES:GILBERT - Frederick Bruce and Monica Eileen (Twigs) were married by Canon Webb-Bowen at The Parish Church of St Mary, Wimbledon on 20th April 1949. dear Twigs.

DEATHS

ANDERSON - Joseph Desmond DSC, peacefully at his home in Helford, *Cornwall. Much loved* father of Jo and Hugh, grandfather to Charlotte and Rupert, proud great-grandfather of Charlie, William and Oliver. Funeral Service at 12 noon on Friday April 23rd at St Anthony-in-Meneage Parish Church, Cornwall. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to the RNLI, c/o Pendle Funeral Services, The Firs Funeral Home, St Johns, Helston, Cornwall TR13 8HN. Tel: 01326 573080.

BROWNING - Denys James Browning. Priest, Provincial Canon of Papua and sometime Chaplain to the Forces (Brigade of Guards), on April 16th at The College of St Barnabas, aged 92. Requiem at the College on Monday, April 26th at 11.30am, before cremation. Instead of flowers, gifts to the Centenary Appeal Fund may be sent to The Warden, The College of St Barnabas, Blackberry Lane, Lingfield, Surrey, RH7 6NJ.

BURGESS - Jack Kenneth on 6th April, aged 76 at home in Alpine, San Diego, CA. Sadly missed by his wife, family and friends. Enquiries 0181 989 6830.

BYARD - Jim on 13th April peacefully at home. Committal today at *3.00pm. Memorial* Service on 8th May at 11.00am at St George's RAF Chapel of Rememberance, Biggin Hill. Donations to St George's Chapel (No 1 account), c/o W Uden Funeral Directors, Biggin Hill.

CLIVE - George Meysey, of Whitfield, Herefordshire, beloved partner of Penny Graham, peacefully on Saturday April 17th. Service of Thanksgiving at Wormbridge Church 12 noon Friday April 23rd. All welcome. The 9am from Paddington via Newport arrives Abergavenny 11.22am. Please ring 01981 570727, office hours, if you wish to be met. No memorial service.

DAVY - Christopher peacefully at home on Sunday, 18th April. Very much loved husband of Trish and dearly loved father of Jane, Miranda and Simon. Private cremation. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at The Church of The Holy Cross, Crediton on Friday, 23rd April at 12.30 o'clock. Donations, if desired, to the Macmillan Fund.

DIMITRIADIS - Alexander George died peacefully at home on Sunday April 18th aged 43. Dearest husband of Sally, darling daddy of Sophie and Anna and beloved second son of Christina and brother of Dimitri, will be greatly missed. Funeral will take place on Tuesday 27th April at St Sophia's, Moscow Road, London W2. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Imperial Cancer Research, cheques payable to Fund c/o F W Paine, Molesey tel: 0181 979 5343.

ELSMIE - Victor on April 16th peacefully at The Dower House, Winchester. *Father of Patrick, father-in-law of Pat and grandfather to James and Simon.* Greatly loved by all his family. Private cremation. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at 11.30 am Saturday April 24th at St Swithun's Church, Headbourne Worthy. No flowers please but donations if desired to Cancer Research Campaign c/o JNO Steel & Son, 6 Chesil Street, Winchester, SO23 0HU.

FORBES - Jan née Andrews. Widow of Sir Hugh Forbes, darling mother of Sarah Ingle and grandmother of Joseph. Died peacefully in the Royal Marsden Hospital on 15th April 1999. Service of thanksgiving at St Mary-on-Paddington Green, St Mary's Square W2 on Friday April 23rd at 2 pm. No flowers please. Donations if wished payable to Royal Marsden Hospital sent to Fund Raising Department, Royal Marsden Hospital, Downs Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5PT.

GREGSON - Ethel, peacefully in Cheltenham on Thursday April 15th. Widow of Robert, mother of Robert and Peter. Thanksgiving service at St James Church, Longborough, Gloucestershire on Friday April 23rd at 3pm. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to St James Church or Cardiac Ward Trust Fund, Cheltenham General Hospital c/o W. J. Wright, Funeral Director, Well Lane, Stow-on-the-Wold GL54 1DG.

HARDWARE - Robert Colin (Bob) died suddenly on 13th April 1999. All the staff of Birmingham Air Conditioning Limited extend their sincere condolences to his family and mourn the tragic passing of a good friend and colleague who will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

HARLEY - Suddenly, but peacefully at his home Ulladale, Strathpeffer on *Sunday April 18th, 1999*, Christopher James Harley, aged 76 years, husband of Mary, father of Alison, Janet, Christina and Alan. Funeral service from Church of Scotland, Strathpeffer on Friday April 23rd, at 1 pm thereafter committal at Inverness Crematorium (large chapel) for 2.45 pm. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only. Donations if so desired may be given at the church door for Chest, Heart and Stroke Association.

HENNEQUIN - Alexander Peter (Lex) suddenly on 15th April 1999 aged 47. It is with the greatest sadness that I have to inform you that after a brief illness Lex lost his struggle with life. His funeral will take place on Wednesday 28th April at The Park Crematorium, Aldershot at 12.30 pm. Guy, Angelique and I would welcome the opportunity for you to share in a celebration of Lex's life after the service. Although the flame has gone out, the light that Lex's life brought to us all will shine as a beacon forever. Flowers would be most welcome. Lynne Hennequin.

HUNTER JONES - Sheila Kathleen OBE died peacefully at home on April 17th after a long, brave and uncomplaining fight against cancer. Dearly loved wife of Hugh, devoted mother of Nigel, Patrick, Nicholas and Sarah, and a loving and much loved grannie of her twelve grandchildren. Funeral Service at Langham Church, near Colchester at 2 pm on Friday next April 23rd. Family flowers only but if desired donations may be made to SSAFA Forces Help, Essex Branch, c/o Hunnaball Funeral Services, 41 Mersea Road, Colchester CO2 7QS, (01206 760049).

KIRWAN - Sir Laurence (Larry) Kirwan KCMG TD died peacefully on April 16th 1999 after a short illness. Widower of Stella, much loved father, stepfather and grandfather. Family funeral. A Memorial Service will be announced. Donations if desired to Trinity Hospice, 30 Clapham Common Northside, London SW4 0RN. For further details contact Edmund & Sons (0171) 498-1531.

LOVERIDGE - On April 16th, Marjorie (Midge) aged 93, late of Great Bookham. Widow of *A J Loveridge* C.M.G., O.B.E. Funeral at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead on Monday April 26th at 11am. Flowers, or donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund, c/o Hawkins & Sons, Highlands Road, Leatherhead KT22 8ND.

MARTYN - Mr Charles F Martyn MVO. "Mr Charles" late hairdresser to H M The Queen. Died peacefully at home on 16th April, aged 82. He will be dearly missed by all his friends. Funeral service will take place on Wednesday 28th April 1999 at St Michael & All Angels Church, Hinton, near Christchurch, followed by the burial at Hinton Park Woodland Burial Ground. All enquiries to Hinton Park Woodland Burial Ground on 01425-278910. All flowers through Hugo Skuckek Flowers on 01794-368879.

MIDDLETON - Elizabeth. Beloved wife of Antony and mother of Sarah, passed away peacefully at her home in Paphos, Cyprus on 12th April. Cremation and reception to take place at East Hampstead Crematorium in Wokingham, at 3 pm on Friday 23rd April. There is also a memorial service being held at Linton Parish Church in Grassington, N. Yorkshire at 11 am on Monday 26th April. All welcome. Donations in lieu of flowers to Macmillan Cancer Relief.

MITCHELL - Helen of Gressington Park, Liverpool on 18th April 1999 in her 99th year. Much loved by her many cousins and friends. Funeral at 12.30pm Wednesday 28th April, Holy Trinity Church, Wavertree, Liverpool.

MORGAN - Ron. Peacefully in his sleep on Sunday 18th April, 1999 at the West Cumberland Hospital, Whitehaven. Beloved husband of Janet and dearly loved father of Deborah, Chris, Catriona, Gareth, Gavin and Kerry. Devoted grandfather of Lily and [illegible]. Funeral at St Bridget's Church, Moresby, Whitehaven on 22nd April at 2.45pm followed by cremation.

MYTTON - Pamela May (née Howes). Widow of the late Major Brochwel Herbert Mytton M.B.E., M.C. Died peacefully at The Katharine House Hospice on 15th April 1999. Dearly beloved mother of Stephanie and Fiona and much loved grandmother of Emma, Suzannah, Katie and Lucy. A service of Thanksgiving will be held on Friday 30th April 1999 at 12.15 pm St Edmund's and St George's Church, Hethe. Donations if desired to: The Light Dragoons Regimental Association, Home Headquarters, The Light Dragoons, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4NP or The Katharine House Hospice.

PARKINSON - On April 17th of Crook, Co Durham, Harry, aged 79 years. Dearly loved husband of the late Elizabeth, loving father of Robert and John. Funeral service to take place Thursday 22nd April, 12 noon at St Cuthbert's RC Church, Crook prior to interment in the churchyard.

PROUD - Kathleen, 16th April 1999, aged 85 at Hungerford, Berkshire. Service of Thanksgiving, Hungerford Methodist Church, Friday 23rd April at 2.00pm. No flowers. Donations invited to London Voluntary Service Council, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA or NCH Action for Children, 85 Highbury Park, London N5 1UD.

RHODES - Peacefully on 18th April Audrey Mary. Dear wife of Kenneth, mother of Geoffrey and Alex, grandmother and sister. Service and cremation at East Riding Crematorium, Octon on Thursday 22nd April at 10.15 am. Family flowers only. Donations in her memory for Scarborough Hospital Intensive Care Research Fund may be sent c/o F. Knowles & Sons, 58 Richmond Street, Bridlington, East Yorkshire, YO15 3DJ.

RIVETT - Edith Isobel (née Perry) greatly loved and will be much missed by her family and friends, peacefully at home on Saturday April 17th 1999, aged 90. Funeral at Guildford Crematorium on Monday April 26th 1999 at 11.00am. Family flowers only. Donations may be made to Rukba, c/o Sherlock and Sons, Trellis House, Dorking, RH4 2ES.

RUCK - Patricia Alice May Ruck MBE, beloved wife, mother and grandmother, at home in Wrotham on 13th April. Flowers to Viner & Sons, 34 High Street, West Malling, Kent ME19 6LU.

SMITH - Oliver Charles. Beloved son of Charles and Camilla of Fforest Coalpit and adored younger brother of Kate and Harriet, tragically on 15th April with his dearest cousin Amelia and great friend Ed. For funeral arrangements please contact Ted Williams & Sons of Abergavenny (01873 853442). No flowers. Any donations to Oi's memory to The Injured Jockeys Fund.

STOWELL - Very peacefully at her home on Saturday April 17th 1999, Alice T Briggs (Sally) of Bracebed Cottage, Cromwell Park Road, Almondbank. Beloved wife of Bertram, much loved mum, gran and great-gran. Funeral service to be held at Perth Crematorium on Friday April 23rd at 3.30pm to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please.

THORNELY - Ruth Olive, (née Barnes), aged 87. Widow of Frank B Thornely MC. Much loved mother of Anthony, Nicholas and Celia, grandmother of Gyles, Sam, Lucinda, Rupert, Emma, Adam, John and Charles and sister of Sheila. Funeral Frant Church, Tunbridge Wells, 2.15pm, 26th April. Family flowers only. Donations to Hallwell N.H., Tunbridge Wells.

TRAVERS - Amelia tragically in a road accident on April 15th 1999 aged 17 years. Adored only daughter of Ben and Clare and dearly loved sister of Sam and Jack. Funeral Service at Shrewsbury Roman Catholic Cathedral, Town Walls, at 2 pm on Tuesday April 27th followed by cremation at Shrewsbury Crematorium. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the Manchester Youth Theatre c/o A.S. Morris & Son Funeral Directors, Sandford Avenue, Church Stretton, Shropshire, tel: (01694) 722876.

TURNER - On 15th April, peacefully in Maidstone Hospice, Michael, aged 57. Beloved partner of Linda and dear Father of Sarah and Mark. Cremation at Vinters Park, Maidstone Friday 23rd April at 2.30pm. No flowers. Donations, if wished, payable to Heart of Kent Hospice or Lymphoma Research Trust c/o A.W. Court Funeral Directors, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, nr. Maidstone, ME17 2AP - tel: 01622 850840.

VIGOUREUX - Paul at Molesey Hospital on 15th April 1999. Requiem Mass at St Barnabas Church, East Molesey on 22nd April at 2.30pm. No flowers please.

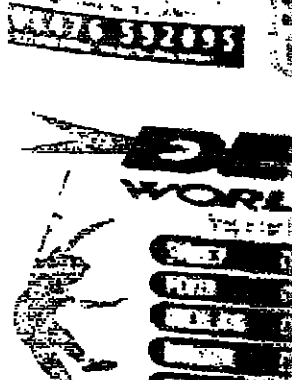
WEARDEN - Clifford Kirkham died peacefully on April 16th at the Whittington Hospital, aged 78, after a courageous and determined fight following a stroke. Husband to Pauline and brother to Betty. Father to Amanda, Sarah and Charlotte and stepfather to Jane, Jonathan and Emma. Private family funeral, with tribute planned for the near future. Donations in his memory to The Stroke Association or R.N.I.B.

WERNHAM - R. Bruce. Emeritus Professor of Modern History, Oxford University; passed away peacefully on April 17th aged 92. Much loved husband of the late Isobel and father of Joan and Sam. Funeral Service at Portchester Crematorium on Friday 23rd April at 12 noon. No flowers please, donations to the R.N.L.I. c/o A.H. Freemantle, 46 South Street, Titchfield, Hampshire, PO14 4DY.

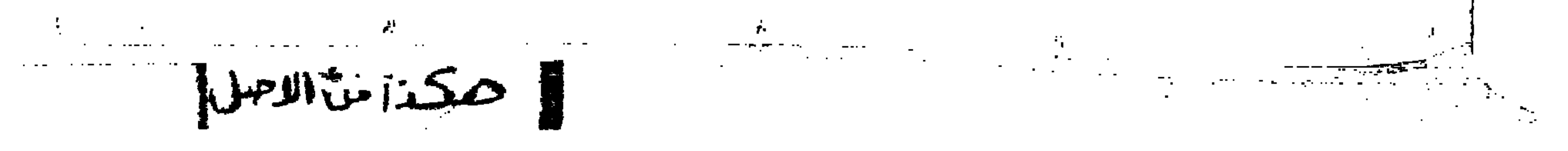
WILLIAMS - Stella Spatchett (née Chapman) peacefully on April 13th 1999 aged 76 years. Widow for just 12 weeks of Bob and beloved mother of Daphne. Cremation private. Thanksgiving Service Friday April 23rd 2.30 pm Christ Church URC, Marlow. Donations in her memory to Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew or Christ Church, Marlow (for disabled access) may be sent to Revd. Daphne Williams, 121 Stamford Avenue, Springfield, Milton Keynes MK6 3LG.

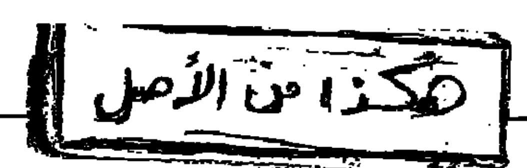
WILLIAMS - Frederick Conon MB.Ch.B. of Dodford, Bromsgrove, much loved father, grandfather and friend, died on April 13th 1999 after a long illness. Funeral at Dodford Church on Friday April 23rd at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only or donations if desired to Cancer Research Campaign c/o Lyn Jones, 1 North House, Mill Lane, Wildmoor, Bromsgrove B61 0BX.

WILLIAMSON - Archibald Stewart Roxburgh ("Archie"), 11th April 1999 in Tucson, Arizona, USA. Memorial service, Tuesday 20th April. Donations if desired to Oxfam, Oxford OX2 7DZ.









WILLI STOPH

Willi Stoph, former Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic, died on April 13 aged 84. He was born on July 9, 1914.

Twice Chairman of the Council of Ministers (Prime Minister) of the former German Democratic Republic, from 1964 to 1973 and from 1976 to 1989, Willi Stoph served under two General Secretaries of the East German Communist Party, Walter Ulbricht and Erich Honecker.

Stoph had come to prominence in the early 1950s as Minister of the Interior. Then, and from 1956, as East Germany's first Minister of Defence, he was credited with building up the country's army to make it one of the most efficient (and most politically reliable) in the Warsaw Pact apart from the Soviet Union itself.

In 1970 when Willy Brandt's Government in West Germany was trying to improve relations with the GDR as part of its Ostpolitik, Stoph conducted the difficult negotiations from the East German side, leading to the Basic Treaty between the two Germanies in 1972. Brandt found then that Stoph had "very firmly moulded views". Indeed, he was a rigid conservative who, almost to the end of the existence of the GDR as a separate state, was incapable of seeing the writing of popular discontent on the wall.

As late as 1988, almost on the eve of the crumbling of the GDR, he summarily dismissed the East German Secretary of State for Churches, Klaus Gysi, when he suggested to the presiding East German Lutheran bishop that a meeting might be able to iron out the Protestant Churches' differences with the State. This mildest form of reasonableness in dealing with potential dissent was anathema to him.

Luckily for Stoph, when the collapse and discrediting of the regime he had served so long came about, the masters of the new united Germany dealt more benignly — or at any rate more indecisively — with him and his peers than they had once dealt with their political opponents.

In 1993, a trial on charges of manslaughter of the principal leaders of the former East Germany — including Honecker, Stoph and the former secret police chief Erich Mielke — virtually ground to a halt as the defendants were excused on grounds of illness. What had been intended as a show trial which would be the united Germany's final excoriation of the malign spirit of the East German past ended ridiculously, with the three old men getting off with what amounted to scarcely more than a slap on the wrist.

Willi Stoph was born into a Berlin working-class family. After an elementary school education he became an apprentice bricklayer, and like many young men in his milieu he joined first the Communist youth movement and then, in 1931, the Communist Party.

He later claimed that he carried on anti-Nazi activities during the Third Reich, but such claims were largely discounted. During the Second World War he served as an NCO in the Wehrmacht with various artillery regiments.

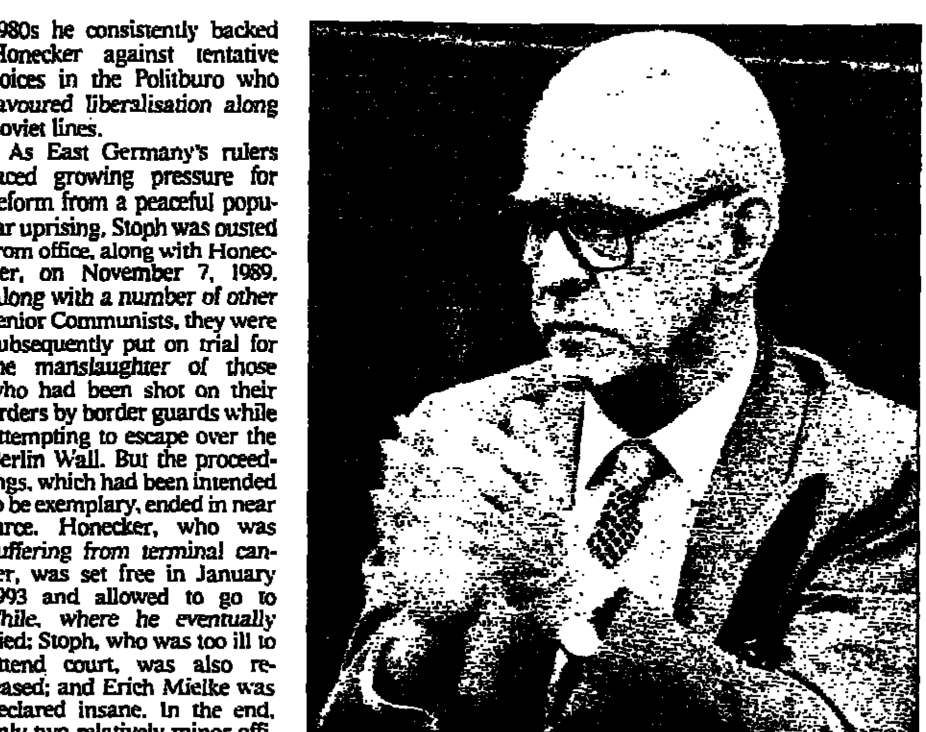
At the end of the war he held a number of important posts in the economic management of the Soviet Zone from 1945 to 1952. He was then appointed Minister of the Interior and played a crucial part in setting up the armed forces of the GDR, disguised as "People's Police in Barracks". However, in 1953 his people's police failed to prevent the popular rising which was subsequently put down by the Soviet Army. But this does not seem to have damaged his standing with the Russians or with Ulbricht.

Stoph's contacts with Moscow were further developed during his time as Minister of Defence, and they proved useful to him later on when he came under pressure from Honecker. There was deep and lasting rivalry between the two men after Honecker emerged as Ulbricht's preferred candidate following Stoph's sudden and unexplained decline from popularity with Ulbricht.

After Honecker's accession in 1971, Stoph was marginalised, and his relationship with Honecker was noticeably cool, with the two apparently unwilling to exchange words even in public.

On the death of Ulbricht in 1973, Honecker, General Secretary since 1971, "promoted" Stoph to be Chairman of the Council of State, or head of state, a much less significant position at that time. It began to look as though Stoph's career was drawing to a close. But in 1976, at a time of economic difficulties, he was brought back as head of the government, and in the late 1980s he consistently backed Honecker against tentative voices in the Politburo who favoured liberalisation along Soviet lines.

As East Germany's rulers faced growing pressure for reform from a peaceful popular uprising, Stoph was ousted from office, along with Honecker, on November 7, 1989. Along with a number of other senior Communists, they were subsequently put on trial for the manslaughter of those who had been shot on their orders by border guards while attempting to escape over the Berlin Wall. But the proceedings, which had been intended to be exemplary, ended in near farce. Honecker, who was suffering from terminal cancer, was set free in January 1993 and allowed to go to Chile, where he eventually died; Stoph, who was too ill to attend court, was also released; and Erich Mielke was declared insane. In the end, only two relatively minor officials were sentenced.


Stoph seen on the eve of East Germany's dissolution, 1989

ANDREW OSMOND

Andrew Osmond, writer and co-founder of *Private Eye*, died of a brain tumour on April 14, aged 61. He was born on March 16, 1938.

THE death of Andrew Osmond, following those of Peter Cook, Willie Rushton and John Wells, further depletes the ranks of those associated with the founding of the satirical magazine *Private Eye*. In 1961 Osmond put up the £300 capital needed to launch the project, and although he sold most of his shares nine months later to pursue a career in the Foreign Office, it was by then on its way to becoming a national institution. He was known to a wider public for the thrillers he wrote with his former diplomatic colleague Douglas Hurd, later Foreign Secretary.

The son of a Lincolnshire businessman, who died when he was eight, Andrew Osmond was educated at Harrow and was called up, as one of the last of the National Service generation, into the Rifle Brigade in 1956. At Eaton Hall he won the Sword of Honour, and he was commissioned into the Gurkha Rifles, seeing action in Malaya. He liked to recall the time when, leading his company through the jungle, he called in artillery support to attack enemy positions ahead. By mistake he gave the co-ordinates of his own position, and he and his unit had to endure several minutes of "friendly" shelling.

At Oxford he was close to Richard Ingrams and Paul Foot, contributing to their humorous magazine *Parson's Pleasure*, and with Peter Usborne he helped to set up *Mesopotamia*, before heading to Paris to learn French in preparation for a career in the Foreign Office.

In the autumn of 1961, he was summoned back to London by Usborne, Ingrams, Rushton and Christopher Booker, since he was the only person they knew with the £300 they needed to set up a new satirical magazine. Various titles were bandied about, but Osmond insisted on the name *Private Eye*.

He then played a key part in the launch, using his Mini to drive copies of the early editions round the Kensington coffee bars and restaurants where it was sold. He and Booker, the first editor, also delivered copy to a northwest London suburb to be printed by the then revolutionary photo-litho process, so inspiring the magazine's obsession with Neasden which continues to this day.

In the summer of 1962, when *Private Eye* was selling 13,000 copies a fortnight and had moved from Rushton's bedroom to its first office, in a Covent Garden warehouse, Osmond decided to return to respectability by applying again for the Foreign Office. He sold a controlling share in *Private Eye* for £1,500 to Peter Cook and Nick Luard, owners of a satirical nightclub, The Establishment, and embarked on his new career. Although he found diplomatic life increasingly irksome, his friendship with a colleague in the Rome Embassy, Douglas Hurd, led them eventually to collaborate on four thrillers, beginning with *Send Him Victorious* (1968) and ending with *War Without Frontiers* (1982).


Osmond by Willie Rushton

In 1969 Osmond left the Foreign Office and settled down with his American wife, Stuart, and their two young children in an old vicarage near Burford in Oxfordshire, hoping to establish himself as a writer, and meanwhile rejoining *Private Eye* as part-time business manager. These were golden years, as the couple threw themselves into village life, staging memorable cricketing weekends for the entire *Eye* staff, and the magazine's circulation soared towards 200,000.

Yet despite his fertile imagination, Osmond found life as a writer a solitary ordeal, and after some trying years the couple returned to London, where in 1985 he joined a firmproviding speeches for businessmen. He later set up a similar firm of his own, Company Writers, but although he tried to remain cheerful, this was scarcely inspiring work for one who should perhaps have been a captain of industry in his own right. Genial and handsome, Osmond was an unfailingly generous man who spread more light than he knew.

He is survived by his wife and by their son and daughter.

SKIP SPENCE

Skip Spence, singer and guitarist, died of lung cancer in Santa Cruz, California on April 16 aged 52. He was born on April 18, 1946.

THE final tragic irony of Skip Spence's troubled life was that he should die within days of the planned release of a tribute album by superstar friends, paying homage to his pioneering role as one of the founders of the 1960s San Francisco "acid rock" sound. Robert Plant, Beck and Tom Waits are among those who gave their services free, and royalties from the album were to have gone to a fund to help Spence to rebuild his life. He had spent his last years living in a trailer park in reduced circumstances after suffering psychiatric problems, drug addiction and alcoholism.

Spence was an early member of two seminal groups, Jefferson Airplane and Moby Grape. He was an influential figure in the success of both, although his instability meant that he did not stay long with either. He went on to record the 1969 solo album *Oar*, one of the great lost classics of the psychedelic era. After paranoid schizophrenia was diagnosed, he became regarded as a crazy, wayward talent, a typical casualty of those drug-addled times. Apart from two brief, unsatisfactory Moby Grape regroupings, he was never to make another record after *Oar*.

Alexander Spence was born in Ontario, Canada, but soon moved to California. While still in his teens he emerged as a folk singer in clubs around San José, before joining a local garage band known variously as the Topsiders and the Other Side. In 1965 he answered an advert for a second guitarist to play with the San Francisco band Quicksilver Messenger Service.

Before he could join, however, he was spotted in a club by Marty Balin, who recruited him instead to drum with the newly formed Jefferson Airplane, even though he had never played percussion before. Balin needed a drummer, so he told Spence to get some sticks and practise. A week later he was appearing with the group on stage at San Francisco's Matrix Club.

Spence played on the band's debut album, *Jefferson Airplane Takes Off*, and wrote several of the songs, but quit by mutual agreement in May 1966 and headed for Mexico. The band had been alarmed by his erratic behaviour but continued to recognise his worth as a songwriter, recording his *My Best Friend* for their second album, *Surrealistic Pillow*, after his departure.

JEFFERSON AIRPLANE TAKES OFF

Spence wrote several of the songs on this 1966 debut album

Back in the Bay area in the autumn of 1966, Spence joined Moby Grape as guitarist and lead singer. The band signed a lucrative deal with Columbia and looked set to become one of the biggest names in the burgeoning West Coast scene, but in June 1967 Spence and two other band members were charged with "contributing to the delinquency of minors" after being caught with three under-age girls in their car in Marin County. Charges were eventually dropped, but the lurid press reports of drugs, girls and rock stars with their trousers around their ankles were hugely damaging.

They were not helped, either, by a hubristic marketing campaign which saw five singles from their first album released on the same day. This backfired and *Omaha*, the best of them, reached only 88 in the American charts. But despite the hype around their first two albums, *Moby Grape* and *Wow* (which included a track that had to be played at a different speed), both were fine examples of the psychedelic rock era, with tightly structured, guitar-based songs which have stood time's test.

During the recording of *Wow*, Spence suffered a nervous breakdown, and attacked the drummer Don Stevenson with an axe. When he came out of hospital, he made his way to Nashville and recorded *Oar*, playing all the instruments himself and recording the entire album, legend alleges, in a single day. Its extraordinary songs, some impossibly dark and others sunny and melodic, spoke of his schizophrenic spirit, and although sales were poor, it is a cult classic.

Back on the West Coast, in San José, Spence teamed up with a band called Pud. He suggested they change their name to the Doobie Brothers, but typically did not stick around to share their chart success. He joined a Moby Grape reunion in 1971 for the disappointing album *20 Granite Creek*, which included his strange *Chinese Song*, played on a koto — but by now his problems were crowding in.

Another reunion in 1978 produced a live album, and in 1990 the rest of the original line-up re-formed again and recorded a new Spence song, *All My Life*, on the album *Original Grape*, but he was in no state to join them. He was made a ward of California's Santa Cruz County and spent his last years in a residential care hostel and a trailer home.

He entered the Dominican Hospital, Santa Cruz, with lung cancer on April 5. He is survived by four children.

MICHAEL MELFORD

Michael Melford, sports journalist, died on April 18 aged 82. He was born in St John's Wood, London, on November 9, 1916.

AS THE first cricket and rugby football correspondent of *The Sunday Telegraph*, from 1961, and then, from 1975 until 1982, as cricket correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph*, Michael Melford became one of the most respected and best-liked sports writers of his day. The players knew they were assured of a fair deal, and he wrote with a ready wit and a shrewd eye.

Michael Austin Melford was a scion of the stage, his father being a founder member of the Co-optimists theatre company, and his mother having been, as Jessie Winter, a well-known actress. Lillie Langtry was one of his godmothers. From Charterhouse he went to Christ Church, Oxford, where he studied law and won an athletics Blue as a middle-distance runner. He was a Gunner in the Second World War, serving in Tunisia, Egypt and Italy.

After the war his love and knowledge of sport took him to *The Observer* from 1946 to 1950, and to *The Field* as an assistant editor. From 1950, with the *Telegraphs*, he wrote on cricket, rugby and athletics. He covered two Olympics (Melbourne in 1956 and Rome in 1960) and numerous rugby internationals, but he was mostly to be found at the cricket.

Succeeding E. W. Swanton as *The Daily Telegraph*'s chief cricket writer was no easy undertaking, and Melford's style and strengths were very different. Where Swanton had pronounced, Melford proposed. Melford was the gentlest of critics, but when he did take a club the impact registered. Except, perhaps, in the case of South Africa. He was a staunch, not to say stubborn, advocate of maintaining sporting links with the regime there, seeing contact as the most likely means to bring about change.

A lifelong interest in horse racing meant that Melford knew his way around the form-book as well as *Wisden*. There were few better non-professional handicappers in the country, and he took great delight in having his account closed by a leading bookmaker, who sent him an unreserved apology when they discovered they were dealing not with some sort of conspirator but with a client of caution and the utmost integrity who held on to his hat when he had £10 on a horse. He had had no more than a moderately successful fortnight, though he had backed a number of less than obvious horses. The story duly circulated in the highest echelons of racing and caused the bookmaker much embarrassment.

When Peter May was looking for an amanuensis to recount his year as England's finest postwar batsman, captain in 41 Test matches and a Test selector, he turned to Melford, who collaborated with him on *A Game Enjoyed*. Melford's own book, *After the Interval*, is the best history of first-class cricket between 1946 and 1990. He also wrote a history of the Denham Golf Club, golf being a game that brought him much pleasure.

He married Lorna Powell in 1950. She and their two daughters survive him.

ON THIS DAY

April 20, 1922

This article from the women's column of the paper catches the flavour of a different social age — when weekends were a time to leave the town for a stay in a country house

WEEK-END WITHOUT A MAID.

Many considerations have changed the character of the Saturday to Monday spent in the country. During the war the difficulties of travelling necessitated "travelling light", if we did it at all. The large and heavy boxes of pre-war days gave way to a small light bag which could be carried by its owner if there were no taxis and porters. This resulted in the weekend wardrobe being reduced to the smallest possible dimensions.

The habit of greater simplicity formed in those days has remained. It is no longer necessary to go away for Sundays with a variety of tea-gowns as well as of evening gowns and with Sunday clothes as distinct from country clothes. The real difficulty in the way of taking away few clothes is found in the variable English climate, for as late as May and June furs may still be required and worn alternately with light summer clothes.

Many people have given up having a maid, and probably the moment when she is most missed is during the week-end visit. The problem of the woman who goes away maid-less is the problem of packing. A great deal of extra trouble is entailed. No longer can a few directions be given to a trusty maid as to the things that will be wanted. It is much better to take two very small boxes rather than one big one. In a house where there are no menservants and no lift this is a blessing for the women servants.

The visitor will be well advised to leave behind those accumulations of travelling bags, cushions, rugs, and other paraphernalia which are carried by hand and go in the railway carriage with their owner. Where there is no maid to take charge of these, they will be found a heavy incubus, and heaviest of all is the large dressing-case filled with bottles and brushes. The woman travelling alone had better sacrifice this altogether, and be satisfied with a less ornamental dressing-table. A duplication of brushes and bottles for a few days is totally unnecessary, and the few that are really needed can well be packed with other things in the box.

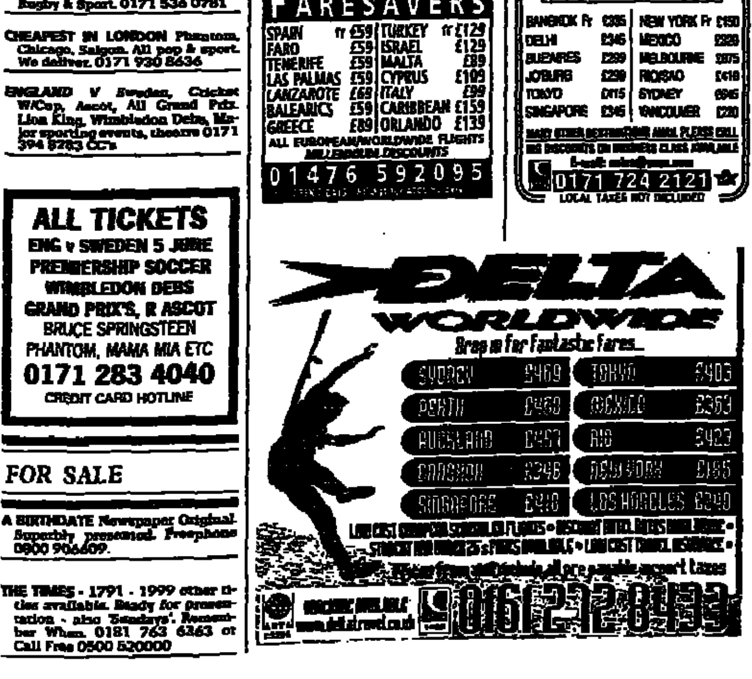
An essential for a week-end visit without a maid is a tiny work-basket with needles, thread, pins, darning material, and so on. The visitor should carefully label her boxes before starting, for the number of railway lines which refuse to take unlabelled luggage is on the increase. If she neglects this precaution she is likely to find herself delayed at the station while a friendly porter produces a label and a stumpy pencil with which to supply the deficiency . . .

PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS

YOUNG - On 16th April peacefully in her sleep Janet Dorothy, dear wife of the late Douglas Newbery, Surgeon Commander RN (killed in the sinking of HMS Repulse in 1941) and for fifty happy years the much loved wife of Commander Rex Young RN who died in January 1996. A devoted wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother. A Thanksgiving Service for her life will be held at 3pm on Friday April 23rd at St. Bartholomew's Church, Barbon. No flowers but donations in lieu to the Carr Gomm Society (supported housing for vulnerable people) gratefully received c/o J.J. Martin Funeral Directors, Sedbergh, Cumbria, tel: (01539) 625334.





NEWS

Nato using KLA intelligence

■ Nato is using intelligence supplied by the Kosovo Liberation Army on the ground to help its planes to locate and destroy Serb positions in the war-torn province.

Despite repeated claims by Nato that it has no formal links with the rebel fighters, *The Times* has witnessed how the rebel fighters, supplied with satellite telephones, are providing detailed reconnaissance for Nato bombers. The intelligence is passed to Western "handlers" who relay the targets, enabling Nato to claim that it has no "formal links" ...... **Page 1 and 4-9**

Convoy attack admitted

■ In an attempt to draw a line under the most damaging incident of the four-week campaign, Nato admitted for the first time that its jets had attacked two separate convoys last Wednesday.......... **Page 1**

Ulster bystanders

A year ago 675,966 Northern Ireland voters marched to the polls to record their overwhelming support for the Good Friday peace accord. Today they are silent bystanders as the accord threatens to collapse.......... **Page 2**

Police training

Police officers should be given special training in dealing with mentally ill people who are known to be violent, an inquiry into the murder of a woman police officer recommended. The report criticised the police, social workers and the NHS .... **Page 2**

Corrupt solicitor

A corrupt Mayfair solicitor who loaned £163,000 to the late Dodi Fayed for his film company from money he had plundered from a trust fund for two young orphans was sent to prison for three years at the Old Bailey.......... **Page 3**

Fame for Kooky

Kooky the Clown, a from Wiltshire, who has yet to become a household name outside his village, was made International Clown of the Year.......... **Page 3**

Doubts over Dyke

Former governors of the BBC last night expressed concern at the prospect of Greg Dyke, who has donated £50,000 to the Labour Party, becoming the next Director-General.......... **Page 10**

Holocaust museum

Leaders of Britain's Jewish community will unveil plans by the architect Daniel Liebeskind this week for a national Holocaust museum beside the Manchester Ship Canal, in Trafford.......... **Page 12**

Nail bomb escape

The toddler who had a 4in nail removed from his brain after the Brixton market bombing was extremely lucky to have suffered only superficial injuries.. **Page 13**

Minor party

Other parties have their campaign battle buses. The re-branded Scottish Conservatives have a modest "people carrier". It has room for just six people.. **Page 14**

School drugs

The headmaster of a comprehensive in an affluent suburb of Manchester brought a sniffer dog into the school in an attempt to end drug dealing.......... **Page 15**

Turkish nationalists

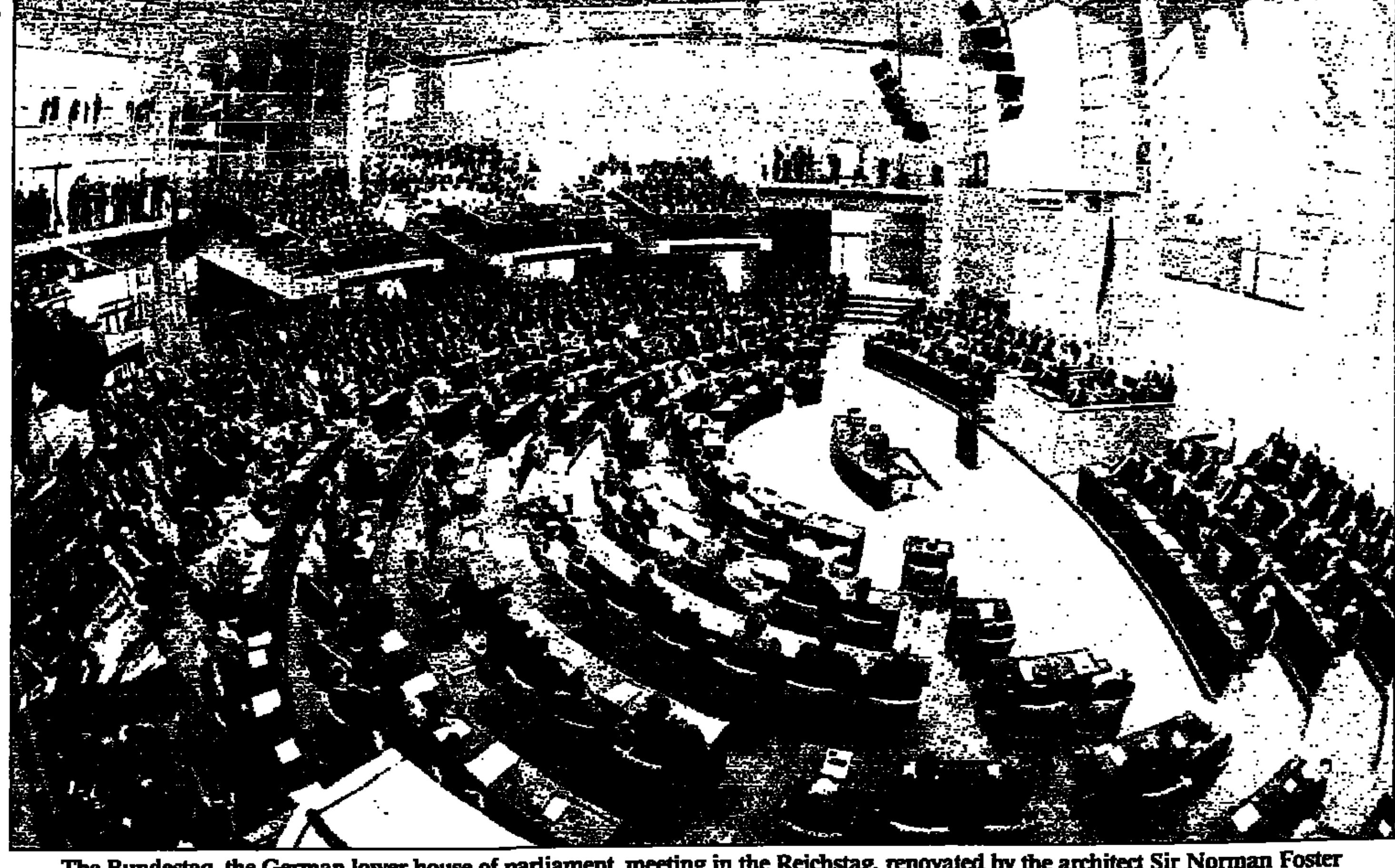
The cold wind of Balkan nationalism penetrated Turkish politics as results of Sunday's general election became clear.......... **Page 16**

Queen in Korea

Korea was deprived of its ancient monarchy 89 years ago by the colonising Japanese, but it can still stage a respectable show of pomp to welcome a member of the royal sisterhood.......... **Page 17**

Welcome to open country

■ America will never look quite the same again. Marlboro man and Joe Camel, for decades landmarks of the US skyline and popular culture, have been banished. Within two days all giant billboards promoting cigarettes will have been consigned to the ashtray under an agreement to cover the health costs of smoking related disease.......... **Page 1**



The Bundestag, the German lower house of parliament, meeting in the Reichstag, renovated by the architect Sir Norman Foster

BUSINESS

Kingfisher falls: The shares of Kingfisher fell by more than 5 per cent after investors became nervous about its merger with Asda.......... **Page 29**

Compaq payoff: Eckhard Pfeiffer, the ousted chief executive of Compaq, could receive a payoff of more than $225 million.......... **Page 29**

Euro slumps: The Euro slumped to record lows against the pound and the dollar as fears grow that the war in Kosovo will take a heavy toll on European economies.... **Page 29**

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 94.7 to 6515.3. The pound fell 0.27 cents to $1.6117 but rose 0.47p against the euro to 65.85.......... **Page 32**

SPORT

Football: Arsenal are renewing their bid to sign Robbie Fowler, the Liverpool and England striker, who was assaulted on Sunday and suffered a broken nose..... **Page 56**

Rallying: Mechanical trouble hit Scotsman Colin McRae's hopes of a third successive race victory halfway through the opening leg of the Rally of Catalunya.......... **Page 54**

Athletics: Joyce Chepchumba and Tegla Loroupe, locked in controversy over marathon times, could meet in London next year.......... **Page 54**

Uefa: Chelsea's Dennis Wise has escaped punishment over the alleged biting incident.......... **Page 56**

ARTS

Big Screen USA: American critics are in two minds about Eddie Murphy's new vehicle, *Life*. Is it comedy or drama?.......... **Page 21**

Artist's eye: A new show at the National Portrait Gallery reveals by the appliance of science what a painter sees.......... **Page 22**

Music makers: While the Barbican and the Festival Hall put on powerful maestros, Kennedy wowed Basingstoke and Birmingham heard revelatory Mahler.......... **Page 22**

Men in pajamas: How four individuals not normally associated with musicals have collaborated on *The Pajama Game*.......... **Page 23**

FEATURES

Dissecting divorce: How to survive a marriage break-up, from shock and separation through the grief and to acceptance.......... **Page 18**

Parting shots: Angry words are fired in the heat of the legal battle that divorce often becomes but court is not for revenge...... **Page 19**

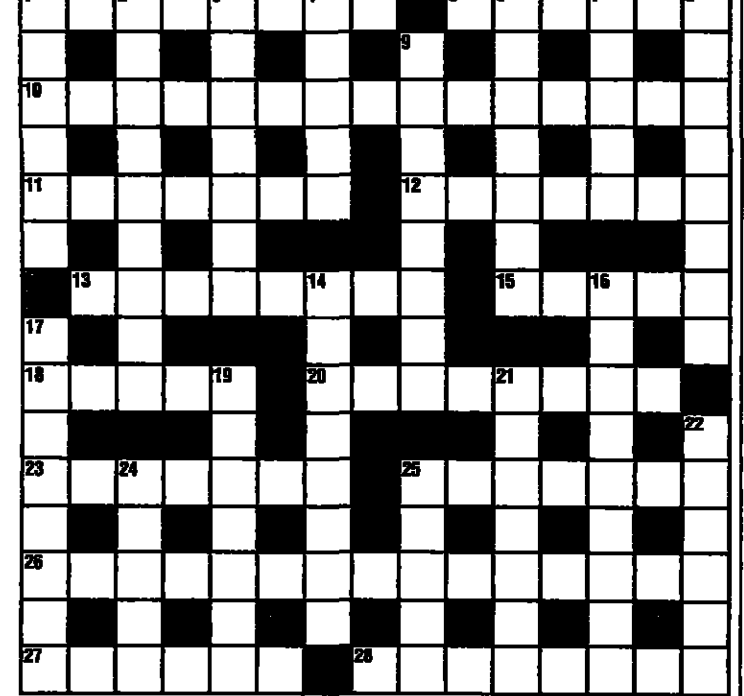
UNIVERSITY GUIDE

Learning curve: A new table details what's on offer in the arts and social sciences for tertiary students who want the best.......... **Page 20**

LEGAL

Raw deal: Plans for a "no win, no fee" deal for accident compensation claims will deny people access to the legal system.......... **Page 41**

Mischief-making: The law's conduct rules exist to protect clients from sexual advances but it is in danger of being abused..... **Page 43**



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **INTERFACE**

How to find the perfect bra on the Internet

■ **FOCUS**

A report on the Queen's Awards for Export, Technological and Environmental Achievement

It is vital at this time of crisis in East Timor to be perfectly clear about where responsibility lies for the deaths and escalating violence. The real responsibility for the threatened descent into civil warrests squarely with ABRI, the Indonesian armed forces

— *The Sydney Morning Herald*

RADIO & TV

Preview: The work of environmental health officers: *A Life of Grime* (BBC1, 9.35) **Review:** Peter Barnard finds *Butterfly Collectors* a classy and clever work.......... **Pages 54, 55**

OPINION

Changing gear

The temptation for the Government is to stumble on in the hope that the IRA will come to reconsider its position. It will not do so unless obliged to do so.......... **Page 25**

East Timor's agony

Hundreds of East Timorese were yesterday fleeing their capital as knife-wielding thugs attacked anyone suspected of supporting independence for the former Portugese colony.......... **Page 25**

Funny business

Laughter is said to be a gift of the gods, a medicine for the human mind. The clown offers a tonic. This, in part, is where his cultural significance lies.......... **Page 25**

LIBBY PURVES

Let us pause and celebrate the gamey flavours of the Thatcher years, as seen from what is just beginning to feel like a safe distance.. **Page 24**

ANTHONY HOWARD

Any selection of Greg Dyke by the BBC over the next month would be not only inappropriate but entirely unacceptable.......... **Page 24**

JASON ALLARDYCE

This week the trade union movement in Scotland has flexed its collectivist muscles. And Labour has been forced to accept that it simply cannot afford to antagonise the brothers.......... **Page 24**

PETER RIDDELL

Nato, and the EU, are now taking responsibility for the future security and political and economic stability of the Balkans.......... **Page 9**

Willi Stoph, East German politician; **Andrew Osmond**, co-founder of *Private Eye*; **Skip Spence**, singer and guitarist **Michael Melford**, sports journalist.......... **Page 27**

Propaganda in Kosovo; Chris Woodhead; Liverpool's "lost" war memorial; a new Director-General for the BBC.......... **Page 25**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,082

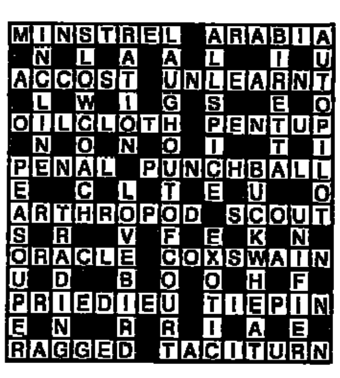
ACROSS

1 A lot of money initially spent on a young relative (8).
5 Attempt to provoke? That's the conclusion (4-2).
10 Take a walk, as Procrustes sometimes would? (7,4,4).
11 Riding with son advanced towards land (7).
12 Girl and I entering hundreds of top races (7).
13 Skilled player, after six, run out backing up thus (8).
15 He composed some subtle harmonies (5).
18 An old settler's point of view (5).
20 Delay its reform in controlled manner (8).
23 Dramatic scene when gold is taken on board (7).
25 Like serous membranes numbering more than one, say (7).
26 She told me a terrible lie! It was ever thus! (3,4,3,5).
27 Measure individual in this long suit (6).
28 Agent employed to drive rocket and steer ride is replaced (8).

DOWN

1 Frenchman's name associated with supplier of fossil fuel (6).
2 Running in a race, initially, then taking it easy (9).
3 About time editor stirred up US city (7).
4 Natural earth or mineral aggregate found around church (5).
6 Popular way everyone found place in office (7).
7 For example, medics going round the grounds (5).
8 Correspondence that conveys a particular view (8).
9 Story one acted out (8).
14 Concealed drunken boss – endlessly pickled, perhaps (8).
16 Man or woman almost promises to pay for killing (9).
17 Handyman's deed in setting up of corporation? (8).
19 Raise tax for invasion of English general (7).
21 In alignment, like guests at a formal dinner (7).
22 Possibly a forward man or woman, according to Jaques (6).
24 Plaintive cry from learner punished outside (5).
25 Plant soundly identified by lots of birds (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,081



Times Two Crossword, page 56

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.55 am
Sun sets: 8.04 pm
Moon sets: -
Moon rises: 9.16 am
First quarter April 22
London 8.04 pm to 5.53 am
Bristol 8.14 pm to 6.03 am
Edinburgh 8.29 pm to 5.54 am
Manchester 8.18 pm to 5.57 am
Penzance 8.23 pm to 6.18 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** much of England and Wales cloudy and breezy with outbreaks of rain. The outbreaks may be prolonged and the rain heavy, especially in southwest. Northern parts will feel quite chilly in the strengthening wind, but temperatures in the south will return to something nearer normal for the time of year. Northern Ireland will also be overcast, wet and windy. Rain will edge into southern Scotland, falling as snow over the hills. Northern Scotland will stay very cold with sunny spells and wintry showers.

Tonight, Northern Ireland and Scotland will be mostly cloudy, wet and windy but the far north of Scotland will have some snow. Snow over the Highlands should turn to rain by dawn. England and Wales will also be wet although the rain will become much more showery.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands, E England:** rain this morning then drier for a time before more rain arrives this afternoon. Freshening southerly wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Central S England, Channel Islands, SW England, Wales:** increasingly windy with heavy rain moving in this morning, lasting into the afternoon, but turning more showery this evening. Freshening southerly wind. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** early rain clearing for a time, but it will stay windy with more rain later this afternoon. Freshening southeasterly wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Central N, NE England:** rather cold and windy with rain moving in and snow for a time on the hills. Fresh southeasterly wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands:** cloudy and windy with rain spreading northwards, falling as snow over the hills. Fresh easterly wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** chilly and windy with sunny spells and wintry showers. Strong easterly wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **N Ireland:** windy with a good deal of cloud and spells of heavy rain. Strong easterly wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** overcast with outbreaks of drizzle or rain, heavy at times. Strong southeast winds, becoming variable. Cold. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Outlook:** tomorrow will be windy with scattered heavy showers. Northern and eastern Scotland will have longer periods of rain. Scotland will remain cloudy and rainy on Thursday. Other areas will be brighter with a mix of sunny spells and occasional showers.

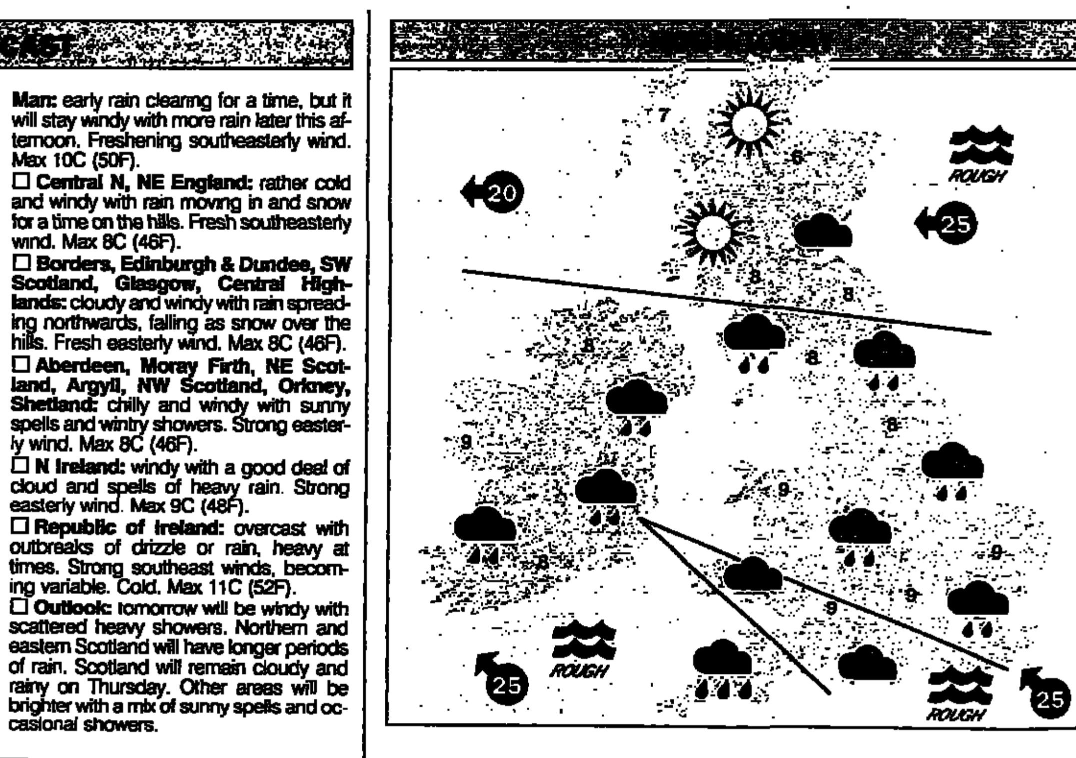
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright, c=cloud; d=drizzle, ds=dust storm, du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales, h=hail; r=rain, sh=shower; sl=sleet, s=sun; t=thunder

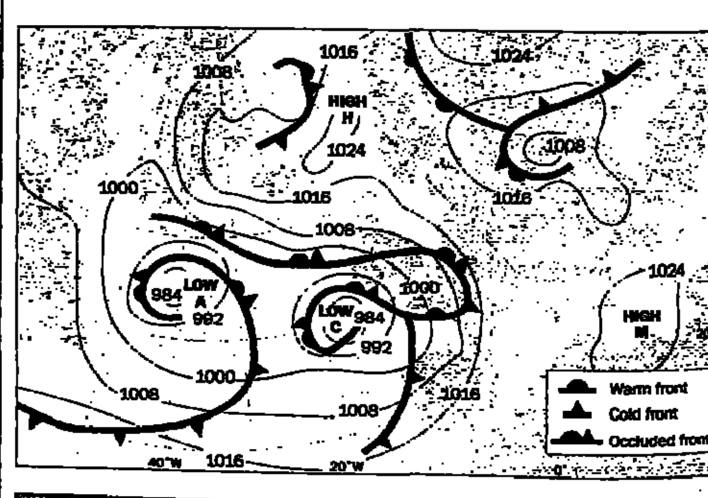
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	8.4	0 01	7	45	b
Anglesey	12.1	-	11	52	s
Aspatria	8.3	-	11	52	s
Aviemore	3 6	0 07	6	43	sh
Belfast	11 8	-	10	50	s
Birmingham	3.1	0 02	9	48	b
Bognor R	11.5	0 01	11	52	s
Bournemth	7.7	-	11	52	s
Bristol	8 6	-	12	54	s
Buxton	3.3	0.04	8	46	s
Cardiff	7.2	-	12	54	s
Clacton	8 0	0.09	7	45	s
Colwyn Bay	12.5	0 02	13	55	s
Cromer	11 8	-	9	48	s
Eastbourne	11 9	-	10	50	s
Edinburgh	9 1	-	9	48	s
Eskdalemuir	8 7	0 04	8	46	s
Exmouth	6 0	-	8	46	c
Fishguard	7 8	-	10	50	s
Folkestone	7 0	0.02	9	48	s
Glasgow	11 9	0.01	12	54	s
Guernsey	2.3	0.01	10	50	c
Hastings	9.2	0.01	10	50	s
Hayling I.	10 1	-	9	48	s
Herne Bay	4.1	0.31	10	50	b
Hunstanton	7 3	-	10	50	s
Isle of Man	12.7	-	10	50	s
Isle of Wight	11.3	0.01	10	50	s
Jersey	3.3	0.01	11	52	r
Kinloss	9 3	0 05	7	45	s
Lerwick	6.0	0 10	5	41	sn
Leuchars	3.2	0 01	7	45	sh
Littlehampton	10 1	-	10	50	s
London	5 1	0 03	13	55	s
Lowestoft	10.2	0.01	10	50	s
Manchester	4.5	0 28	11	52	s
Margate	9.1	0.09	11	52	s
Morecambe	4.3	0 09	10	50	c
Newcastle	5.8	0.01	9	48	sh
Newquay	3.1	0 02	8	46	r
Norwich	11.3	-	10	50	s
Oxford	8.8	0.03	10	50	b
Penzance	3.3	0 14	9	48	d
Poole	2.0	0 04	12	54	c
Ross on Wye	9.9	0 01	11	52	s
Saunton Sands	7.2	-	9	48	s
Scarborough	7.0	-	8	46	b
Shrewsbury	10.8	-	9	48	s
Skegness	10 5	-	10	50	s
Southend	7.3	0.35	9	48	s
Southsea	9.5	-	11	52	s
Stornoway	11.8	-	7	45	s
Swanage	9 4	0.01	10	50	s
Teignmouth	5.4	-	9	48	b
Tenby	6 4	-	9	48	s
Tiree	14 6	-	9	48	s
Torquay	4.9	-	10	50	s
Weymouth	6.8	-	9	48	s

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	15	59	c	Cologne	9	48	c	Madrid	13	55	s	Rome	15	59	f
Akrotiri	23	73	s	C'phagn	3	37	r	Majorca	16	61	f	Salzburg	7	45	c
Alex'dria	33	91	s	Corfu	18	64	f	Malaga	21	70	s	S Frisco	14	57	s
Algiers	19	66	f	Dublin	9	48	s	Malta	19	66	s	Santiago	18	64	s
Amst'dm	8	46	f	Dubrovnik	14	57	s	Melbourne	19	66	s	S Paulo	X		
Athens	22	72	s	Faro	17	63	s	Mexico C	X			Seoul	26	79	s
Bahrain	29	84	f	Florence	13	55	f	Miami	18	64	f	Singapore	30	86	f
Bangkok	34	93	f	Frankfurt	9	48	f	Milan	17	63	s	Stockholm	8	46	r
Barbados	29	84	f	Funchal	18	64	c	Montreal	14	57	s	Strasb'rg	8	46	c
Barcelona	15	59	s	Geneva	6	43	f	Moscow	19	66	s	Sydney	23	73	s
Beijing	25	77	s	Gibraltar	20	68	s	Munich	8	46	f	Tangier	19	66	s
Beirut	24	75	s	Helsinki	17	63	s	Nairobi	25	77	f	Tel Aviv	31	88	s
Belgrade	15	59	f	Hong K	29	84	c	Naples	15	59	s	Tenerife	22	72	s
Berlin	8	46	f	Innsbruck	8	46	f	N Delhi	36	97	s	Tokyo	15	59	r
Bermuda	21	70	r	Istanbul	25	77	s	N York	16	61	s	Toronto	12	54	f
Biarritz	12	54	f	Jeddah	37	99	s	Nice	17	63	s	Tunis	20	68	f
Bordeaux	13	55	f	Jo'burg	23	73	s	Oslo	2	36	sl	Valencia	20	68	s
Brussels	8	46	f	L Palmas	22	72	f	Paris	11	52	c	Vanc'ver	12	54	f
Budapest	5	41	r	Le Touqet	9	48	s	Perth	24	75	s	Venice	14	57	s
B Aires	21	70	s	Lisbon	16	61	s	Prague	7	45	c	Vienna	10	50	r
Cairo	35	95	s	Locarno	17	63	f	Reykjavik	2	36	s	Warsaw	7	45	c
Cape Tn	14	57	r	L Angeles	22	72	s	Rhodes	22	72	s	Wash'ton	14	57	f
Chicago	6	43	f	Luxembg	4	39	c	Rio de J	20	68	f	Wellngton	12	54	X
Ch'church	13	55	X	Luxor	39	102	s	Riyadh	31	88	f	Zurich	5	41	r

Temperatures at midday local time Sunday. X = not available



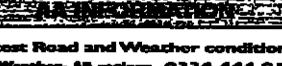
Changes to the chart below from noon: low A will move east a little and fill. Low C will move northeast, deepening slightly. Highs H and M will collapse slowly



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	4:00	4.1	16:27	4.2
Avonmouth	10:03	13.2	22:19	12.8
Belfast	1:38	3.5	14:08	3.4
Cardiff	9:49	12.2	22:05	11.8
Devonport	8:43	5.4	21:03	5.3
Dover	1:33	6.8	14:01	6.6
Dublin	2:08	4.2	14:39	4.2
Falmouth	8:14	5.2	20:34	5.1
Greenock	3:05	3.5	15:36	3.4
Harwich	2:24	4.2	14:50	4.0
Holyhead	0:50	5.6	13:18	5.6
Hull (Albert D)	9:01	8.6	21:26	8.7
Ilfracombe	8:51	9.2	21:09	8.9
King's Lynn	8:59	6.9	21:23	6.7
Leith	5:21	5.5	17:48	5.5
Liverpool	1:45	9.5	14:12	9.4
London Bridge	4:27	7.5	16:57	7.1
Lowestoft	-	-	12:18	2.4
Margate	2:35	5.0	15:06	4.7
Milford Haven	9:06	6.9	21:27	6.7
Newquay	8:00	6.9	20:22	6.7
Oban	8:33	3.7	20:36	3.6
Penzance	7:27	5.4	19:48	5.3
Portland	9:54	1.9	22:00	1.8
Portsmouth	1:55	4.7	14:23	4.6
Shoreham	1:51	6.4	14:09	6.2
Southampton	1:22	4.6	13:51	4.5
Swansea	9:10	12.2	21:31	11.8
Tees	6:31	10.0	18:57	10.0
Walton-On-Naze	2:18	4.4	14:44	4.1

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

Yesterday: highest day temp: Colwyn Bay (Conwy) 13C (55F); lowest day max: Sella Ness (Shetland) 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Manston (Kent) 0.84ins; highest sunshine: Tiree (Inner Hebrides) 14.6 hrs.



THE TIMES 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY APRIL 20 1999

Kingfisher shares fall over Asda merger nerves

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

SHARES of Kingfisher, the retail group, fell by more than 5 per cent yesterday after investors became nervous about the impact on its earnings of its proposed merger with Asda. The share price fall saw the value of the combined group drop by nearly £1 billion from Friday to £16.7 billion.

Kingfisher shares fell 44p to 796p. Continued speculation that Wal-Mart, the US retailer, or a continental European company, might come in with a cash bid for Asda gave some support to the supermarket group's share price. It closed down 5p at 193½p.

The fall in Kingfisher's price means that the all-paper deal was worth just 180p per Asda share by the end of yesterday. "In effect this should make it easier for a counter-bidder with cash to come in," one analyst said.

Allan Leighton, chief executive, said he had had no indication from Wal-Mart, or any other retailer, as to whether they might come forward with a bid. "I haven't got a clue," he said.

He said that it was wrong to interpret the deal as a defensive strike against the possible arrival of Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, in the UK. "This is an offensive move," he said. "It's a platform for growth."

After a presentation by Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive of Kingfisher, and Mr Leighton, the analyst said that while the two companies billed the deal as creating "a world-scale retailer", it was in fact exposing Kingfisher to a mature UK supermarket sector.

Supermarket share prices have been under pressure because of a recently launched investigation by the Competition Commission.

Asda said yesterday that its like-for-like sales in the second half to April 10, excluding petrol, were up 4.7 per cent — well above the sector average.

Nick Bubb, retail analyst at SG Securities, said: "The market is taking against the idea because of the increasing food exposure. Asda is not on anything like the same valuation as Darty or Castorama [Kingfisher's electricals and DIY businesses in France]."

Kingfisher estimated the deal, first mooted a year ago, would deliver cost savings of at least £100 million a year and provide a platform to speed up European and international expansion.

The combined group would rank among the top ten global retailers in terms of market capitalisation, and the number one in Europe in terms of operating profits.

The proposed marriage marks further consolidation of Europe's fragmented retail industry, spurred on by the euro as well as retailers' ambitions to succeed on a global scale.

Underscoring the rapidly shifting European retail scene, Germany's Karstadt and Quelle announced plans to merge, creating a group with annual sales of some DM33 billion (£11 billion) that spans store-based retailing, mail order business, tourism and other services.

Sir Geoffrey commented: "People are seeing opportunities to operate more efficiently on a larger scale."

Although Asda and Kingfisher are proposing to make changes, such as putting Asda's George brand of clothing into high street branches of Woolworths, part of the Kingfisher empire, customers are unlikely to see much of this until the end of the year.

Commentary, page 31
Wal-Mart shadow, page 33



Wim Duisenberg said yesterday the "point has not been reached" for ECB intervention on the euro

Euro slides to record low against sterling

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE euro slumped to record lows against the pound and the dollar yesterday as the European Central Bank ruled out market intervention and fears grew that the conflict over Kosovo would take a heavy toll of European economies.

Wim Duisenberg told the European Parliament the "point has not been reached" where the ECB felt sufficiently worried about the value of the euro to intervene and, for the moment, it would continue a policy of exchange rate "neglect".

Mr Duisenberg's comments sparked a fresh sell-off of the euro, which fell as low as $1.0589 against the dollar, before making a modest recovery to hold at $1.0610. The euro also lost further ground against the pound, falling to a record low of 65.60p.

Mr Duisenberg refused to state at what levels the ECB might consider intervention, claiming that it would provide an open invitation for speculators to test the Bank's resolve. He added that the crisis in Kosovo was weighing on the currency, although not to "an alarming extent".

The President of the ECB also told MEPs that the ECB now expected growth to be "slower than we earlier expected", describing European Commission forecasts of 2.2 per cent growth this year as "somewhat on the optimistic side". However, he ruled out any further rate cuts "for the time being".

Sterling was earlier bolstered by stronger than expected producer prices data and comments from John Townend, director for Europe at the Bank of England, which raised expectations that rates will not fall much further.

Mr Townend said that Britain's faster rate of economic growth meant that "we have required, and still do require, interest rates roughly twice the continental level to secure price stability".

UK £ to Euro
0.72
0.71
0.70
0.69
0.68
0.67
0.66
0.65
Jan Feb Mar Apr
Source: DATASTREAM

The recent jump in crude oil prices pushed March factory gate prices up at a monthly rate of 0.6 per cent, the largest jump in nearly four years. The annual rate of increase rose from 0.2 per cent in February to 0.5 per cent. Raw material prices rose at their fastest rate for four years, climbing by 1.3 per cent in March but the annual rate showed a decline of 3.7 per cent.

The increase was almost entirely due to an 18 per cent increase in crude oil prices during the month. Analysts said most of the impact, however, would prove a "one-off".

In London, a late rally pushed the FTSE 100 index to a record closing high of 6,515.3, an increase of 94.7 points.

Commentary, page 31



WEBSITE: http://www.ecb.int/



High-tech high wire
Anatole Kaletsky on technology tremors
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STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6515.3	(+94.7)
Yield	2.12%	
FTSE All Share	3010.25	(+40.55)
Nikkei	16674.21	(−177.37)
New York:		
Dow Jones	10730.91	(+237.02)*
S&P Composite	1334.10	(+15.10)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	4¾%*	(4[illegible]%)
Long bond	94[illegible]*	(95[illegible])
Yield	5.57%*	(5.57%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5[illegible]%	(5[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	117.05	(116.96)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6078*	(1.6133)
London:		
$	1.6120	(1.6142)
€	1.5189	(1.5078)
SFr	2.4320	(2.4166)
Yen	190.31	(190.64)
£ Index	103.9	(103.5)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.0610*	(1.0707)
SFr	1.5097*	(1.4966)
Yen	117.88*	(117.82)
$ index	108.2	(108.0)

Tokyo close Yen 118.17

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul)	$15.90	($15.55)

GOLD

London close	$283.45	($284.05)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates .... Page 30

Pfeiffer may get $225m Compaq payoff

FROM ADAM JONES IN NEW YORK

ECKHARD PFEIFFER, the ousted chief executive of Compaq, could receive a payoff of more than $225 million (£140 million) after his departure from the computer maker.

Mr Pfeiffer bowed to calls for his resignation from the board on Sunday, nine days after Compaq gave a profit warning. Earl Mason, the chief financial officer, also resigned.

In a surging market, Compaq shares had fallen slightly by lunchtime yesterday, having risen by as much as 4.2 per cent earlier in the day.

At the end of last year, Mr Pfeiffer had share options worth $410 million. However, Compaq shares were then $42. They are now about $23, having dived after the profit warning, cutting the value of his options to about $225 million.

Mr Pfeiffer is likely to receive further compensation. Last year, he was paid $1.5 million in salary, plus a $3 million bonus and $75,000 share options.

Mr Mason had stock options worth about $22.5 million at the end of last year. They should now be worth about $12.3 million.

Compaq and its senior executives are being sued by investors who bought shares between January 27 and April 9, when the profit warning was issued. The lawsuit also claims that Compaq executives "took advantage of the inflated stock price" to sell $50 million of Compaq shares before the profit warning.

Analysts fear that Compaq is caught between selling its personal computers through traditional retail intermediaries and selling direct to consumers, in which the rival Dell excels.

Ben Rosen, chairman, will run Compaq until a new chief executive is found.

Company failures rise sharply

DESPITE falling interest rates and the supposed soft landing for the economy, there has been a sharp increase in companies collapsing (Jason Nissé writes).

According to figures from KPMG, there were 304 receiverships in the first three months of this year, up 24 per cent on the last quarter of 1998 and up 19 per cent on the same period a year ago.

The South East's 146 receiverships were up 46 per cent, quarter on quarter.

Mike Wheeler, of KPMG, said that although there was often a seasonal increase after Christmas, the rise compared with the same period last year was of some concern.

Westons net £300m from special dividend

BY ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

GARRY WESTON, chairman of Associated British Foods, and his family netted nearly £300 million yesterday as the firm surprised the stock market by returning £448 million to shareholders.

A significant step was also taken to ensure that the Weston family retains management control of the group. George Weston, 35, second son of the chairman, was appointed to the ABF board.

Mr Weston and his family control nearly 60 per cent the firm, which includes Kingsmill bread, Silver Spoon sugar, and Twinings teas among its products. As such, the Westons receive the lion's share of the 50p-a-share special dividend. Their share of the £448 million total payout is £269 million but they earn another £23 million from the payment of the ordinary interim dividend.

Net cash at the end of the half year to February 27 stood at £1.2 billion. Analysts estimate that at the year end, after paying the special and ordinary dividends, ABF will still have more than £1 billion of cash.

ABF's interim pre-tax profits were £109 million, down from £193 million in the previous first half. However, £74 million of the fall came as ABF wrote down the value of certain milling and baking assets. Underlying profits were £183 million compared with £193 million. The ordinary dividend is held at 4.25p a share.

Mr Weston senior said: "I do believe that as my family has such a large shareholding in the firm the family must have board representation." And he added: "George is a bright lad."

George Weston replaces David Garman, who resigned on April 16 as the head of ABF's bakery business, which has been bit by intense competition.

Tempus, page 32



Garry Weston: promoted son

Inchcape confirms one-off 100p payout

BY PAUL DURMAN

INCHCAPE, the car distribution group, yesterday confirmed that it plans to pay a special dividend of 100p a share, sending its shares 12½p higher to 155p.

The £530 million payment, which the market has expected for some weeks, has been held up by the sale of Inchcape's South American bottling business to Embotelladora Arica, a Chilean soft drinks company. Arica has had to arrange a bond issue, a rights issue and a syndicated loan to raise the £457 million purchase price.

Inchcape said that Arica is close to finalising its financing, with only the loan still to be arranged. Inchcape intends to send shareholders a circular soon on the bottling disposal.

Inchcape, once a sprawling international conglomerate, has broken itself up in the past year to try to end the abysmal performance of its shares. They fell as low as 91p last year and remain far below their 550p of five years ago.

The company, chaired by Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, who also heads British Airways, sold its Russian bottling business last October. In January it raised £93 million from the sale of its business marketing consumer goods in the Asia Pacific region, and last month raised £72 million from selling its marketing operation in the Middle East. It has also sold a shipping services business to Electra Fleming, the venture capital firm.

Once it has sold its office equipment business in the Asia Pacific region, it will be reduced to an importer and distributor of marques including Toyota, Mazda and Chrysler.

Philip Cushing, chief executive, is due to leave the group in June, by which time Inchcape hopes to have completed its disposals.

Yesterday's announcement was prompted by a weekend report.

Lloyd's reveals £350m insurance policy

By Robert Cole
City Correspondent

LLOYD'S, the London insurance market, has bought £350 million worth of annual insurance cover for its financial safety net, the so-called central fund.

The new insurance policy means the fund now has more than £800 million at its disposal. There is about £175 million of cash in the central fund and Lloyd's has the power to call on another £300 million from members if necessary.

However, the central fund is a back stop — claims are only paid from it if individual capital providers and names cannot meet obligations. This capital stands at about £15 billion.

The first £100 million of claims will be met from the central fund's cash resource. Then the insurance policy will kick in, for up to £350 million a year or £500 million over five years. The £300 million of "callable" capital is drawn on last.

The consortium members backing the insurance market are Swiss Re, Employers Re, The St Paul Companies, Hanover Re, XL Mid Ocean Re and the Chubb Corporation.

Max Taylor, chairman of Lloyd's, refused to disclose the cost of the policy but said customers would be better protected and the burden on capital providers who finance the central fund would be eased. He said the central fund levy made on market participants could be reduced and the chances that they would have to pay up towards the £300 million of "callable" capital was also reduced.

The central fund was seriously depleted in the early 1990s when a disastrous set of claims nearly led to the collapse of Lloyd's. Before implementation of the reconstruction and renewal plan — which was part funded by the central fund — it had £700 million at its disposal.

Commentary, page 31

Deutsche and Telecom Italia to unveil merger in London

By Carl Mortished
International Business Editor

THE marriage of Deutsche Telekom and Telecom Italia is expected to be announced in London today, creating a $200 billion (£125 billion) telecoms behemoth. The two telephone utilities have brokered a deal in an attempt to rescue the Italian company from a $65 billion hostile bid from Olivetti.

Intense negotiations over the past week will have focused on devising a formula that will dispel any concerns that a key Italian industry is being handed over to the German state.

The German Government retains a 72 per cent interest in Telekom while the Italian state owns only 3.4 of TI but retains a golden share. Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, said yesterday that any merger of the two utilities should be on equal terms and gave warning that the combined company could not be controlled by the German state.

The merger terms mooted yesterday were a 60:40 split, with Deutsche taking the larger share, a deal which would leave the German Government with a controlling interest of more than 40 per cent in a merged company.

Sources close to the company indicated that Franco Bernabe, TI's managing director, and his opposite number, Ron Sommer at Deutsche would be joint chief executives of a merged group. Analysts were sceptical yesterday that the parties had managed to tie down all the loose strands of the agreement in so short a time. Robert Grindle of HSBC commented: "It will be interesting if they announce the deal in London rather than in Italy or Germany. It may be telling about the future."

Deutsche Telekom may be forced to unwind an existing alliance, including a 2 per cent share swap, with France Telecom, to satisfy European antitrust concerns. The French utility said yesterday that its German partner would be compelled to divest its interest in Wind, a mobile phone business in Italy, if it merged with TI. France Telecom also said: "Our agreements with Deutsche Telekom are clear and incompatible with a unilateral strategic reversal."

The combination will benefit from a high level of mutual telephone traffic. Germany is the top destination for Italian international calls while Italy is the number two destination in Germany.

Olivetti said it was pushing ahead with its bid. A source close to the company remarked: "Two elephants do not make a gazelle."

TTG 'threat' lifts First Choice price

By Dominic Walsh

SHARES of First Choice Holidays, already buoyed by rumours of a hostile bid from Airtours, jumped by 9 per cent yesterday as Thomson Travel Group theatened to intervene.

A successful bid by Airtours would not only scupper First Choice's proposed merger with Kuoni of Switzerland, but would also send it leapfrogging above Thomson in terms of market share.

A spokesman for Thomson said it would not stand by to see its position usurped. "We have been the market leader in the UK for 25 years and we have no intention of losing that position," he declared.

Although an outright bid from Thomson would hit competition problems — a threat Airtours must also weigh up — it has other options at its disposal. The most obvious would be to boost capacity, thereby sparking a damaging price war. Preussag of Germany, which controls Thomas Cook, could also intervene.

Airtours is likely to to await the First Choice/Kuoni merger document, expected later this week, before deciding on whether to pounce. First Choice rose 14½p to 190p while Airtours shed 10½p to 488½p.

Tempus, page 32

Unions to press for PFI concessions

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

UNIONS are to press for the right to vet Private Finance Initiative work across the country after the Government signalled concessions in Scotland as it sought to avert a clash with the Scottish Trades Union Congress.

Ken Jackson, general secretary of the AEEU, said: "We need to have national policies that look after the wages and conditions of our members. Any movement is to be welcomed but we will continue to push the Government."

The Government promised Scottish unions that workers would have more rights under new PFI programmes in an effort to quash a clash with the STUC. It is thought that unions will be involved in evaluating bidders for PFI projects and that employees will be guaranteed greater rights when transferring from the public to private sector.

GAVIN FOGG



On track for success: "Bob" and Peter Orton, chief executive

Bob builds a HIT

HIT Entertainment claims another hit after the success of Kipper the Dog. Bob the Builder, the model animation series made its debut on BBC children's TV last month. Peter Orton, chief executive, said: "The videos have already started walking off the shelves." Interim pre-tax profits rose 20 per cent to £1.4 million. The payout is 0.605p. Tempus, page 32

Director of Paribas advertises BNP case

By Paul Armstrong

CLAUDE BEBEAR, the only one of 15 directors of Banque Paribas to support the Fr102 billion (£10.2 billion) hostile takeover bid from Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP), sought to shore up his position yesterday by advertising his view of the bid in French newspapers.

The advertisements came as M Bébéar's position looked increasingly untenable after revelations of the details of a cross-shareholding agreement signed in 1989 between Paribas and AXA, the insurance group chaired by M Bébéar.

Paribas says that under the deal, designed to protect both companies against hostile predators, AXA is unable to sell its 7.2 per cent stake in Paribas without its approval.

If Paribas's claim that the arrangement is binding is right, AXA cannot accept the BNP bid despite its chairman's vociferous support for it.

M Bébéar is also a director of Société Générale, the French bank that has agreed to merge with Paribas. BNP's bid for Paribas runs alongside its Fr106 million similarly unsolicited offer for SocGen.

M Bébéar said in his statement yesterday that BNP's proposal to merge the three banks represented a "very strong strategic opportunity".

He wrote: "I do not want to be in a position where I can be held responsible for adopting an attitude which leads certain of our shareholders to be deprived of extremely strong value creation potential."

M Bébéar advised Paribas shareholders who do not support the BNP bid to sell "immediately" because the share price would fall if BNP's proposal failed.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

C&W bid rejected

CABLE & WIRELESS, the telecoms company, yesterday received a second setback to its international expansion plans when AAPT, the Australian telecoms group, flatly rejected a takeover bid by its majority owned Optus subsidiary. AAPT, Australia's third-largest telecoms carrier, called the A$1.5 billion (£600 million) offer "naive and absurd", and said that it was already in talks with other, unnamed, potential suitors.

Optus, Australia's second-largest telecoms company and 52.8 per cent owned by C&W, made the unsolicited A$5-a-share offer on Friday, saying that it had built a 10.6 per cent stake in its competitor. Lee Casey, AAPT's chairman said that the "opportunistic" bid did not value his company adequately. The rebuff follows the rejection last week by International Digital Communications, a Japanese telecoms company, of a £327 million bid from C&W and its acceptance of an almost identical offer from Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT).

Denby in discussions

SHARES of Denby Group, the manufacturer of tableware, rose 7½p to 79p yesterday after the company said it was in discussions that could lead to a takeover of the business. Discussions were at an early stage, the company said. Denby shares traded at 166p almost a year ago and peaked at 296½p in 1997. However, trading has been adversely affected by intense competition and the strong pound and annual pre-tax profits fell to £3.22 million from £6.6 million in the last financial year.

Volvo keeps on trucking

VOLVO operating profits increased by nearly 15 per cent to SKr1.2 billion (£90 million) in the first quarter of 1999, excluding Volvo Cars sold to Ford at the end of last year. The growth in profits came mainly from the trucks division — up 44 per cent — which accounts for 60 per cent of the group's SKr27 billion sales, and despite the buses division falling into the red to the tune of SKr67 million. Volvo blamed its wholesale reorganisation of bus production in Europe on the the fall.

Genus offers £20.7m

GENUS, the Ofex-traded bull breeder, sought to force the hand of the board of AIM-listed VDC yesterday by unveiling a £20.7 million cash offer. The two boards have been in talks for sometime but Genus yesterday made its 190p a share offer after VDC, a supplier of animal healthcare products, said that it was not in a position to recommend the offer. The offer by Genus represents a 43 per cent premium to VDC shares before it told the market of talks.

Three for Old Mutual

THREE senior FTSE company directors have been appointed to the board of Old Mutual, the South African insurance and financial services group that is preparing for its flotation on the London Stock Exchange. Joining three existing South African-based non-executives are Norman Broadhurst, the Railtrack finance director; Chris Collins, the chairman of Hanson; and Murray Stuart, the chairman of Scottish Power.

Enic buys in Florida

ENIC, the European football club investor that is also developing themed restaurants in league with Warner Brothers, said yesterday that it has bought an entertainment, dining and retail leisure complex in Orlando, Florida. Enic, whose major shareholder is Charlie Lewis, son of the Bahamas-based billionaire Joe Lewis, is paying $11.5 million (£7.1 million) for the Church Street Station complex, which last year made a £1 million loss for its owner, Baltimore Gas & Electric.

US Signet move fails

ATTEMPTS by American investors to force Signet, the Ernest Jones and H Samuel high street jeweller, to sell off part of its US business in the near future appear to have failed. MD Sass, the New York investment fund, had attempted to put down a motion, calling for a US float, at Signet's forthcoming annual meeting. Signet, however, said yesterday that Sass had failed to put down the necessary papers for a special resolution and therefore the motion is not on the agenda.

Corporate governance clampdown

By Robert Bruce

DIRECTORS of listed companies will have to be far more rigorous in their review of all internal controls, according to the latest draft corporate governance rules.

The new rules, from a committee headed by Nigel Turnbull, finance director at Rank, will, if accepted, come into effect next year. They mean that directors will have to state in their annual report that a company's systems are adequate and had been reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure that all risks have been properly managed.

Roger Davis, senior partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers, and deputy chairman of the committee, said: "The guidance is about round-the-clock internal controls being embedded within the company. This is a big shift in emphasis."

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.58	2.40
Austria Sch	21.91	20.25
Belgium Fr	64.51	59.55
Canada $	2.518	2.330
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9224	0.8509
Denmark Kr	11.89	11.00
Egypt	5.72	5.11
Finland Mkk	9.59	8.84
France Fr	10.44	9.66
Germany Dm	3.136	2.894
Greece Dr	520	481
Hong Kong $	13.36	12.16
Iceland	130	110
Indonesia	17624	12624
Ireland Pt	1.2516	1.1826
Israel Shk	6.87	6.21
Italy Lira	3119	2882
Japan Yen	205.71	188.18
Malta	0.684	0.626
Netherlds Gld	3.540	3.245
New Zealand $	3.09	2.85
Norway Kr	13.18	12.24
Portugal Esc	317.27	295.24
S Africa Rd	10.42	9.46
Spain Pta	264.42	245.63
Sweden Kr	14.32	13.22
Switzerland Fr	2.589	2.371
Turkey Lira	638875	596224
USA $	1.724	1.581

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF JAPAN LEASING (EUROPE) PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is intended to declare a first interim dividend to the creditors of the above-named company within four months from 28th April 1999. Creditors are required, on or before 28 April 1999, to send in their full forenames and surnames, their addresses of their solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Richard Heis of KPMG, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP, joint supervisor of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said joint supervisor, are, personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded for the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Date 14 April 1999
R Heis
Joint Supervisor

CMC GREENLIGHT LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at Begbies Traynor, 6 Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, London, WC1R 5BP on 27 April 1999 at 3.45pm for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.
In accordance with Section 98(2)(b) a list of names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, at Begbies Traynor, 6 Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, London, WC1R 5BP, on the two business days preceding the date of the Meeting, between the hours of 10.00am and 4.00pm.
DATED THIS 16 DAY OF APRIL 1999
J I WAGHORN
DIRECTOR

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
CHASE TECHNOLOGY PLC

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors of the above named Company will be held at 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF on 27th April 1999 at 2.00pm for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act. Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of their debt to the offices of Buchler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF not later than 12 noon on the business day preceding the meeting. For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge before the meeting, a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and at the value at which it is assessed. Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF, between 10.00am and 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above. Resolutions to be taken at the meeting may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the liquidator is to be remunerated, and the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.
By Order of the Board
Chris McAuley, Director.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
JOHN PARTRIDGE LIMITED

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors of the above named Company will be held at 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF on 23rd April 1999 at 10.30am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act. Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of their debt to the offices of Buchler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF not later than 12 noon on 22nd April 1999. For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge before the meeting, a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and at the value at which it is assessed. Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF, between 10.00am and 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above. Resolutions to be taken at the meeting may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the liquidator is to be remunerated, and the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.
By Order of the Board
NIGEL CALLADINE, Director.

TO: JOHAN MICHAEL ODQVIST
FORMERLY OF FLAT 3, 66/66A PONT STREET, LONDON, SW1

TAKE NOTICE that a Statutory Demand has been issued by:
A/S FORSIKRINGSSELSKABET CODAN,
Codanhus,
Gammel Kongevej 60,
DK1790 Copenhagen,
Denmark.
The above-named Creditor demands payment of £293,152.99 the amount now due on a judgment of the West London County Court dated 26th January 1999.
The Statutory Demand is an important document and it is deemed to have been served on you on the date of the first appearance of this advertisement. You MUST deal with this demand within 21 days of the appearance of this advertisement or you could be made bankrupt and your property and goods taken away from you. If you are in any doubt as to your position, you should seek advice immediately from a solicitor or your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau.
The Statutory Demand can be obtained or is available for inspection and collection from:-
Blake Lapthorn,
Holbrook House,
14 Great Queen Street,
London WC2B 5DG.
Solicitor for the Creditor
Telephone No: 0171 430 1709
Reference: LCH/1424.23
YOU HAVE ONLY 21 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT BEFORE THE CREDITOR MAY PRESENT A BANKRUPTCY PETITION.

CHARITY COMMISSION
CHY - 1161C
CHARITY: THE MARY KINROSS CHARITABLE TRUST
REFERENCE: PD/212206/94023

The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity/these charities. A copy of the draft Scheme can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, 2nd Floor, 20 Kings Parade, Queens Dock, Liverpool, L3 4DQ, quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 166th Annual General Meeting of Friends' Provident Life Office will be held at Glaziers Hall, 9 Montague Close, London Bridge, London, SE1, on Wednesday, 26th May 1999 at 2.30 p.m. to transact the following business:-

1. To receive the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 1998 and the Report of the Directors and Auditors thereon.
2. To re-elect as Directors of the Office Peter Jones, Keith Satchell and John Whitney, who are retiring and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.
3. To elect The Rt. Hon. John MacGregor, Wolfgang Peiner and Tom Pyne who have been appointed since the last Annual General Meeting, as Directors of the Office.
4. To re-appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers as the auditors to the Office and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.
5. As special business to consider the following ordinary resolution:

"That for the purposes of Rule 41 of the Rules of the Office the limit on the aggregate amount which Directors shall be entitled to receive as remuneration for their services in each year be increased from £300,000 to £400,000."

By Order of the Directors,
B.W. Sweetland,
Secretary

Friends' Provident
Life Office
Pixham End
Dorking
Surrey RH4 1QA

20th April 1999

A Member is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a Member) to attend the above meeting and vote instead of him. To be valid, the instrument appointing a proxy, which should be as near to the form set out in Rule 30 of the Rules of the Office as circumstances admit, and the power of attorney or other authority (if any) under which it is signed, or a notarially certified copy of that power or authority, must be deposited at Pixham End, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1QA, not less than forty-eight hours before the time fixed for holding the meeting, or adjourned meeting, or, in the case of a poll, not less than twenty-four hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll. Proxy forms may be obtained on application to the Secretary, from whom copies of the Annual Report and Accounts can also be obtained.

BROADCASTING STANDARDS COMMISSION
COMPLAINT BY MRS PATRICIA GORMAN ON BEHALF OF MR JOHN GORMAN QC (DECEASED)

SUMMARY OF ADJUDICATION

The Broadcasting Standards Commission has upheld a complaint of unfairness on behalf of the late John Gorman QC about a BBC2 *Rough Justice* special entitled *Judgement Day*, broadcast on 30 July 1997

The programme followed a *Rough Justice* re-examination of the Carl Bridgewater case and the decision by the Court of Appeal to release the convicted men on bail, pending a second appeal. It was a departure for *Rough Justice* in that it was a 'fly on the wall' programme, an observational record of the run-up to the successful appeal. The programme included discussion of the grounds of appeal and criticism of Mr Gorman's defence of Mr Pat Molloy, who had been convicted of manslaughter at the trial in 1979.

The Commission did not consider that the programme erred in allowing the appellants' lawyers who were preparing the grounds for the second appeal to express criticism of the way the case had been handled in the past. It acknowledged that the views expressed were, and remain, the position of that team and that they were central to the proposed grounds of appeal. However, given the serious nature of the criticism, the Commission considered that the BBC should have recognised the limitations of relying on a 'fly on the wall' programme for matters of this sensitivity, which, in this case, affected the professional reputation of a named individual. The process of "negotiating" the grounds of appeal was an important element within the programme. However, the Commission considered that the brief commentary over-simplified tactical considerations on both sides.

The Commission found that unfairness arose from the BBC's reliance on the argument that as this was an observational documentary, presenting reasonably held views, there was no need for any balancing points at all to be provided. The Commission considers that, in the particular circumstances of this highly sensitive matter, the programme's commentary should have acknowledged the complexity of the case and the difficulties facing Mr Gorman in 1979 before the forensic evidence, which was crucial to the success of the second appeal, was available. Accordingly, the complaint was upheld.

A full copy of the adjudication can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: the Broadcasting Standards Commission, 7 The Sanctuary, London, SW1P 3JS. A copy of the summary is available on the Commission's website at www.bsc.org.uk



Sir Geoff bends the right ears

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Sir Geoff Mulcahy would never have made his living as a salesman. It may be that in putting Kingfisher and Asda together, there is scope for creating a world-beating retail business but, so far, Sir Geoff appears to have succeeded only in convincing the City that Asda has attractions far beyond what Kingfisher is proposing to pay.

But the relative share price movements do not tell the whole story. While Sir Geoff may have failed to enthuse his audiences yesterday, he has strong support where it counts — among the major investors who have backed him since Kingfisher consisted of a trio of former British Sugar executives with ambitions to buy Woolworths.

The likelihood is that people such as Carol Galley, at Mercury Asset Management, will be prepared to go along with Sir Geoff in this latest development of his strategy. The critics yesterday who were denouncing cost savings of £100 million as piffling were ignoring Sir Geoff's tendency towards conservatism. If the Asda camp had been in control of the proceedings, the figures might have looked very different and been presented with rather more razzmatazz. At Asda hq, they have demonstrated an ability to squeeze flattering headlines out of everything from a naff wedding in the supermarket aisles to a cut-price pack of vitamin pills. Why Archie Norman has failed to work the same magic for the Conservative Party is, no doubt, a source of much dismay at Central Office.

Even though Asda is a willing partner in this deal, even Allam Leighton yesterday could not quite avoid leaving open the tantalising possibility that Wal-Mart might come in with a bid that would trump the Kingfisher deal. "Never knowingly under-excited" could be the Asda slogan.

Yet Asda's openness to a bid has been the gossip of the grocery sector for months, and there has been no sign of an overseas visitor brandishing cash. The company has pushed forward with its low-price policy at the cost of investment in the stores. Last year, it flirted with Safeway before deciding that the competition authorities would never allow such a deal and calling off the talks.

Given the current investigation into the grocery industry, a coupling with another UK supermarket group now seems highly unlikely, so the only contenders would be from abroad. If Wal-Mart really were keen to enter the UK market, Asda is the most appealing candidate in terms of store size, but it is far from being a dream match for Sam Walton's mega-retailer.

Kingfisher is probably the best deal Asda shareholders will get. Sir Geoff may not be a spin doctor, but he will get that message across to those who matter.

All the wrong options at Barclays

Barclays describes as "an unfortunate coincidence" the fact that its chairman and finance director chose to take their profits on some share options just five days before the bank had to admit that it was, once more, in need of a chief executive.

But the misfortune belongs to the directors and not the bank. Far from mourning the loss of Mike O'Neill's services, Barclays shares bounded upwards on the news that he would be staying in sunny California and yesterday they continued in that direction. Outside investors are betting on Barclays being on the receiving end of a bid, and they do not expect to have to wait long.

Sir George Mathewson, chief executive of The Royal Bank of Scotland, has already mooted the idea of a get-together and is now thought likely to suggest a reverse takeover as an easy way of solving the Barclays management problems. So Andrew Buxton and Oliver Stocken might have been well advised to have held on to their options a little longer.

Yet their sales have renewed the curiosity over the Barclays predicament. After all, since the bank insists that the pair sold without any knowledge that Mr O'Neill had had a nasty turn and would not be taking up the job, their actions hardly amounted to a gesture of confidence in the new chief executive.

Since Martin Taylor left, Barclays had been plodding on quite happily. Not doing anything drastic is generally a better strategy for a bank than being overly ambitious. So might Messrs Buxton and Stocken have detected a risk that Mr O'Neill planned to be something of an action man once he had settled behind the desk in Lombard Street? Could it be that the ex-Marine had ideas of aggressive expansion for Barclays? Might a board keen to make an appointment even have indicated some enthusiasm for going along with those ideas? And might that board have then suffered from a dose of cold feet?

Realising that the job might be more mundane than had been envisaged would not, of course, bring on an arrythmic heartbeat but it could be jolly depressing. And depression, on top of the influenza that hit Mr O'Neill just as he was supposed to be heading to London, could be nasty.

Disclosure is the best policy

It sounds marvellous. The £350 million a year insurance policy takes the strength of Lloyd's central safety net fund to north of £800 million. Barring a disaster of late 1980s/early 1990s proportions, that should provide ample cover for names and corporate capital providers who keel over.

But as any car and home owners can testify, the devil of any insurance policy is in the small print. It is difficult to endorse wholeheartedly the purchase of this policy because the cost is not disclosed.

The cost will eventually be published, in the next Lloyd's annual accounts, but non-disclosure now only raises suspicions that the policy is expensive. In addition, there is precious little detail provided on whether the annual premiums on this five-year policy are renegotiable. Or how and when exclusion clauses might kick in.

For Lloyd's, its ability to arrange this kind of insurance could help sentiment. If Swiss Re *et al*, who are backing the policy, are willing to take on the business, it ought to enhance Lloyd's credibility all round — for professionals and consumers alike.

But one can insure against just about anything if cost is no object. If Lloyd's wants to be seen as a good risk, it should waste no time in admitting to the cost of its new cover.

Merely a Wim

PITY poor Wim Duisenberg. The ECB President, already struggling with a tumbling euro, has now run into linguistic problems — no small matter when every nuance can move markets. His favourite noncommittal formula for discussing possible rate changes — not "in the foreseeable future" — was yesterday replaced by not "for the time being" — which, as he explained to MEPs, can only be defined as being "longer than the foreseeable future". He wears special specs.

Gucci says it will accept increased Arnault bid

By Fraser Nelson

GUCCI says it is ready to agree a takeover bid from Bernard Arnault, chairman of LVMH, if he raises his offer by only 3.5 per cent, to $9.04 billion (£5.6 billion).

Domenico De Sole, chief executive of the Italian fashion house, says he is willing to make Gucci part of M Arnault's luxury goods empire for an unconditional bid of $88 a share.

Although M Arnault has already suggested an $85 a share takeover, he dismissed Gucci's offer on the grounds that Signor De Sole is no longer in a position to negotiate.

He says the power now lies with François Pinault, the French billionaire who last month helped Gucci to fend off LVMH by acquiring a newly created 40 per cent stake for $2.9 billion. LVMH said yesterday: "De Sole can name whatever price he wants, but the simple truth is that Gucci is an unbiddable company as long as Pinault controls 40 per cent of the shares.

"Price is irrelevant if an offer has no realistic chance of success."

Gucci said its offer was a final attempt to extract an unconditional bid from M Arnault and end the four-month takeover saga. It said: "We have made a clear, straightforward offer and it is now down to LVMH to accept it or reject it."

M Pinault, whose business empire includes Christie's auctioneers, stands to make a $507 million profit if M Arnaults offers $88 a share. He paid $75-a-share for his stake five weeks ago, diluting LVMH's stake in Gucci from 26 per cent to 17 per cent.

On Thursday, an court in Amsterdam, where Gucci is listed, will decide whether this manoeuvre merits a formal investigation.

M Arnault has made many informal indications about a takeover offer, but has never tabled a formal bid.

First-quarter results from LVMH yesterday showed a 12.8 rise in sales for the first three months of 1999 on the back of a recovery in its Asian markets. The company, whose labels span Christian Lacroix to Moët & Chandon, said champagne showed the strongest growth with underlying sales up 24 per cent.

Cornelis van der Hoeven, chief executive of the Dutch company Ahold, is joining the board as a non-executive director. Ahold has been named as a possible counter-bidder for Asda.

Quintain Estates to buy E&O

ENGLISH & Overseas Properties yesterday became the latest target of the acquisitive Quintain Estates and Development as the property group launched a £33 million takeover bid for its smaller rival (Matthew Barbour writes).

The two companies are believed to have been in talks for the past two months finalising the terms of the deal. The bid, now agreed by E&O, is 222½p in cash and one new Quintain share for every four E&O shares. This formula values each E&O share at 100p, giving a premium of 31 per cent to E&O's closing price on Friday, the day before details of the offer were announced. The offer compares with a net asset value of 105p.

Tito Tettamanti, chairman of E&O, has given irrevocable undertakings to sell his 26 per cent stake to Quintain.

SkyePharma in £40m offer

By Paul Durman

SKYEPHARMA, the drug development group, is hoping to offload a £150 million liability by offering Jacques Gonella, its former deputy chairman, shares worth £40 million.

Dr Gonella, who is still a director, was the founder of Jago, the Swiss business that provided SkyePharma with its Geomatrix technology for controlling the release of oral drugs. Dr Gonella still owns a £60 million stake in SkyePharma, but he could receive another $250 million (£155 million) in deferred consideration.

Accounting standards require SkyePharma to charge notional interest on the deferred consideration, which last year increased its loss by £5.9 million to £22 million (£17.7 million loss). The company is concerned this will confuse investors and depress its share price when it moves into profitability, hopefully next year.

Ian Gowrie-Smith, chairman, suggested Dr Gonella might be prepared to accept £40 million to receive his money early, and to increase the value of his remaining holding.

SkyePharma has closed its Brightstone marketing business in the US, which generated sales of only £800,000 last year. The closure with the loss of about 20 jobs will cost £1.3 million but is expected to save £2.2 million a year.

Sales last year fell from £13.8 million to £11 million. Although this was blamed on lower income from development partners, royalties and distribution revenues also fell.

Tempus, page 32

Takeover rumours lift Devro

GRAHAM ALEXANDER, chief executive of Devro, is under pressure to make a formal statement to the London Stock Exchange saying whether he is planning to take the sausage skin manufacturer private (Fraser Nelson writes).

Shares of Devro closed up 12p at 144½p yesterday, having traded at 152p earlier in the day, on word that Dr Alexander and other directors are seeking backing for a 170p-a-share takeover bid.

There have also been rumours that Leon Allen, Devro's former chairman, is considering a 200p-per-share cash offer backed by Schroder Ventures. At yesterday's closing price the company is worth £226 million.

In February, Devro denied it had received any takeover approaches. It would not comment on yesterday's rumours.



Buffett the spectre as M&S shares take off


ANDRE CAMARA

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, left, saw shares of Kingfisher fall 44p to 796p, while Allan Leighton saw Asda slip 5p to 193¾p

THE alarm bells were ringing at **Marks & Spencer** last night as speculative buying carried the stock 10¼p higher to close at 433¼p having dipped as low as 410½p earlier.

More than five million shares changed hands as the high street retailer began issuing 212 notices to establish the identity of US investors who have between them built up a near 3 per cent stake in the company.

US fund manager Brandes Investment Partners holds 44.3 million shares, or 6.9 million American Depository Receipts in M&S, equivalent to 3 per cent of the company. It has led to suggestions that American investor Warren Buffett is the man behind the buying. He has been linked with a number of blue chip companies in recent weeks, including **British Airways**, up 27p at 553½p.

Brokers were quick to point *out that M&S is vulnerable after* its recent profits warning and subsequent boardroom upheaval. The price has dropped from a peak of 619½p last year.

One leading retail analyst poured scorn on the suggestion that the so-called Sage of Omaha was behind the buying: "The problems at M&S are bigger than we thought just six months ago. American buying of the shares provides British investors with the ideal springboard to sell."

Meanwhile, the record books were again being rewritten as share prices on both sides of the Atlantic scaled new heights. The Dow Jones industrial average enjoyed its sixth-consecutive day of record gains and at the close of business in London was more than 250-points higher. The FTSE 100 index closed at its best of the day surging 94.7 points to a record closing high of 6,515.3. At the start of trading in New York, just a couple of hours earlier, the index had been just 20 points up.

Total turnover was a hefty 1.4 billion shares, swollen by share buybacks in **Tomkins**, down 3p to 252½p, (174.78 million shares) and **Electra Investment Trust**, 1p firmer at 716½p (72.1 million).

Among the leaders, the bargain hunters were chasing **British Steel**, up 8¼p up at 159¾p, while **Diageo** jumped 39p to 676p reflecting strong profit numbers from LVMH.

There was a muted response at **Asda**, down 5p to 193¾p, to the merger terms from **Kingfisher**, 44p lower at 796p. The *presentation to brokers by* both Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive of Kingfisher, and Allan Leighton, chief executive of Asda, was said to have fallen short of the mark.

Hopes remain high that Wal-Mart, the US retailer, will come in with a counter-bid for Asda. In the meantime, all eyes are on the next possible bid target. **Safeway** seems a good bet, *which was partly reflected in* the price, up 8p at 268p on turnover of almost 20 million shares. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, has raised its rating for the shares from "reduce" to "hold".

There was also heavy turnover in another food retailer with **J Sainsbury** ending 24¾p better at 415p as 10.75 million shares changed hands.

Laporte continued to be driven higher with a rise of 23½p at 750p. The shares have been the subject of persistent bid speculation despite the breakdown in talks with an unnamed party just last week. The price has surged by almost 30 per cent in the past few weeks.

First Choice Holidays continued to make headway climbing 14½p to 190p on suggestions that **Airtours**, down 10½p at 488½p, may spoil the party and make an offer. First Choice is putting together a merger with rival Kuoni, the Swiss holiday group.

Speculative buying hoisted **HP Bulmer** 18½p to 347½p. Talk is of a bid from the Continent. The cidermaker is still trading well below the 412p achieved last year.

Is someone going to tell us what is going on at **FII Group**? Just a few days ago, the price was bumping along the bottom at 16½p. Yesterday it climbed 7½p to 27½p on turnover of 168,605 shares. Not bad when the normal price and size in the market is just 3,000 shares.

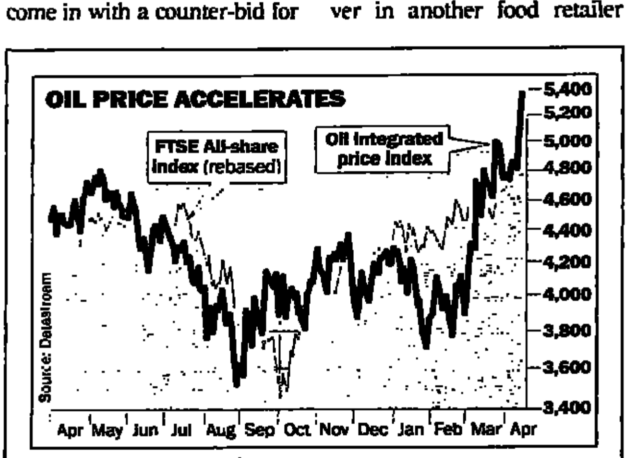
Note the strength of **Devro**, where the price perked up 12½p to 144½p in late trading on fresh talk that the management is looking to take the company private. Some say the terms could be worth 200p a share. Shares in the sausage skin maker were traded as high as 545p last year, before being floored by a profits warning.

News that **Glynwed** had sold eight more businesses for £21 million, marking its final exit from traditional metals activities so it can concentrate on pipes and cookers saw the shares dip 6p to 219½p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** After a nervous start, prices recovered to outperform German bunds and close with small gains on the day. In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt ended 9p dearer at £117.05 in low turnover that saw just 17,000 contracts completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 added 17p at £145.55, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was up 1p to £106.21.

☐ **NEW YORK:** A strong per*formance by financial and cy*clical stocks saw Wall Street scale fresh heights in early trading. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 237.02 points to 10,730.91.



THE oil price continues to gather momentum, coming within a whisker yesterday of the $16-a-barrel level on world markets.

Shares in the main oil producers responded positively to the move. BP Amoco led the way with a rise of 57½p to £11.82½, while Shell went up by 13p to 457½p. Among the explorers, Enterprise rose 38p to 423p and *Lasmo 7¼p to 142p.*

Dealers said that the moves reflected growing demand for oil in North America and Europe and the recent cuts in production implemented by Opec.

T Hoare, the broker, says that Opec has thrown a much needed lifeline to the sector. Things looked grim a short time ago when oil dipped below $10 a barrel. However, Hoare is warning clients not to get carried away. Hoare's Mark Redway, said: "Only time will tell whether the various *members of Opec will hon*our their production quotas, but, unlike six months ago, Opec now gives the impression of a united force."

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 10730.91 (+237.02)
S&P Composite 1334.10 (+15.10)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 16674.21 (-177.37)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 12766.44 (+276.14)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index 559.39 (+10.95)

Sydney:
AO 3113.1 (+13.3)

Frankfurt:
DAX 5220.15 (+64.80)

Singapore:
Straits 1842.31 (+72.39)

Brussels:
BEL20 3301.57 (+16.98)

Paris:
CAC-40 4379.34 (+78.43)

Zurich:
SMI Index 7248.8 (+84.0)

London:

FT 30	4090.0 (+70.9)
FTSE 100	6515.3 (+94.7)
FTSE 250	5849.4 (+53.2)
FTSE 350	3110.8 (+42.5)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3024.28 (+46.94)
FTSE All-Share	3010.25 (+40.55)
FTSE Non Financials	3012.77 (+40.53)
FTSE Fixed Interest	154.39 (-0.05)
FTSE Govt Secs	110.95 (+0.05)
Bargains	104540
SEAQ Volume	1490.0m
US$	1.6177 (-0.0027)
Euro	0.6585 (-0.0047)
£:SDR	1.1864
Exchange index	103.9 (+0.4)

Bank of England official close (4pm)
RPI 163.7 Feb (2.1%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX 162.3 Feb (2.4%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

Br Smaller Co's VCT (100)	95		...
Br Smlr Cos VCT Wrts	12½		...
Cairngorm Euro Restruct	114	+	½
Cairngorm Restruct Wrts	25	+	½
Edinburgh Inc & Val	106	+	½
Edinburgh Val Zero Dv Pf	*103½*	+	*1*
Gartmore High Income	108	+	½
Gartmore Zero Div Pf	109	+	½
M Currie Cap Return	77¼		...
M Currie Portfolio	84¼	+	1
Sherry FitzGerald	147		...
Sports Internet	181½	+	2
Triven VCT	100		...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Calluna n/p (125)	1¾	−	¼
Mice Group n/p (80)	13	−	3
Versalite n/p (05)	1¼		...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
NMT	148½	+ 24½	+ 19.7
Carclo Eng	133½	+ 17	+ 14.5
Tarsus	83½	+ 10	+ 13.6
Br Borneo	172½	+ 20	+ 13.1
Blagden	151½	+ 17½	+ 13.0
Jardine Math	225¾	+ 23¾	+ 11.7
Rosebys	124	+ 13	+ 11.7
Ramco Egy	340	+ 35	+ 11.4
Vickers Grp	165½	+ 17	+ 11.4
VDC	195	+ 20	+ 11.4
CLM Insce	126	+ 12½	+ 11.0
Enterprise	423	+ 38	+ 9.8
Intobank Intl	132½	+ 11½	+ 9.5
Hunting	145	+ 12½	+ 9.4
Ranger	286¾	+ 24¼	+ 9.2
Devro	144½	+ 12	+ 9.0
Castings	193½	+ 16	+ 9.0
Inchcape	155	+ 12½	+ 8.7
Jones Stroud	146½	+ 11½	+ 8.5
Sytner	192½	+ 15	+ 8.4
MBM	35½	+ 2¾	+ 8.3
First Choice	190	+ 14½	+ 8.2
HIT Enter	667½	+ 50	+ 8.0
De Beers	1421⅞	+ 103⅛	+ 7.8

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Young A	762½	− 65	− 7.8
Pace Micro	135½	− 10½	− 7.1
London Clubs	149½	− 9½	− 5.9
Alnce UniChem	441½	− 25	− 5.3
Kingfisher	796	− 44	− 5.2
Harvey Nash	322½	− 17½	− 5.1
Skillsgroup	298	− 14½	− 4.6
Royalblue	465	− 17½	− 3.6

TEMPUS

Food for thought

IT WAS a good job Associated British Foods decided to surrender to City fashion and hand cash back to shareholders. About time, some may say, but without news of the 50p special dividend the shares could have collapsed. Instead, the stock rose 17½p to 443½p.

Even ignoring the £74 million of asset write-downs, ABF's half-year figures were pretty grim. Operating profits slipped from £150 million to £144 million. In the future the return of capital will reduce the contribution of investment income, which is already sliding because of lower interest rates. The strength of sterling continues to hurt, and competition in many areas of ABF's world is also crushing.

But while it is an extremely trying situation it is not a hopeless one. Opportunities exist in higher-margin ingredients. The appointment of Peter Jackson as chief executive and John Bason as finance director are steps in the right direction in terms of executive diversity. The elevation of George Weston to the board also indicates that serious thought is being given to the succession. For the Weston family shows no sign of wanting to loosen its grip on this company, and in those circumstances it can only be assumed that the top job will be kept in the family.

Young George has been given responsibility for baking, one of the toughest assignments in an industry that creaks under the weight of management challenge. If he succeeds in any meaningful way, this will be a share worth buying. Right now the shares trade on 13 times earnings, if you take off 50p from the share price for the special dividend. That is cheap, but the intransigence of ABF's markets undermines the attractions of the shares. Only hold.

SkyePharma

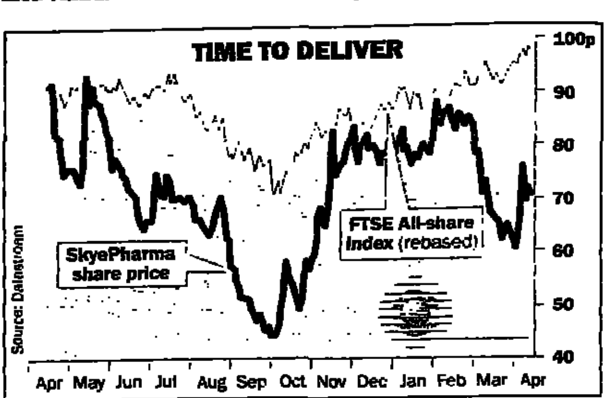
THIS was supposed to be breakthrough year for SkyePharma, but the drug delivery company still offers more promise than profit. SmithKline Beecham has received marketing approval for Paxil CR, the SkyePharma version of its big-selling anti-depressant, but it is not exactly rushing it into the market.

SkyePharma's dependence on the plans of its big pharma customers should add some perspective to all those claims about a share of multibillion-pound revenues and the low risks of the drug delivery model. The focus is now switching to DepoCyt, a niche cancer drug, that at least allows SkyePharma to share 50 per cent of the US revenues.

Revenues so far have been in desperately short supply for a company worth £300 million. Brightstone, the American marketing arm, was once seen as a useful moneyspinner but has just been closed after failing to generate meaningful sales. So much for its pipeline of generic drugs.

SkyePharma is still making worthwhile progress — Novartis recently invested £6.5 million in an asthma inhaler venture, and Synthélabo has filed Xatral for the treatment of enlarged prostate. But this does not look sufficient to allow the shares to break out of the 60p to 90p range they have largely inhabited for the past three years. Irritatingly, the shares are forever moving on rumoured successes or setbacks of unconfirmed clients.

Until the plans for Paxil CR become clearer, the shares at 66½p remain a gamble.



First Choice

FIRST CHOICE shareholders who held their nerve when the shares sank to 83p last October must be feeling pleased with themselves. An agreed merger with Kuoni of Switzerland, swiftly followed by the threat of a hostile takeover by Airtours, has sent the stock flying to a new high of 190p.

The rumoured Airtours move — and it is nothing but a rumour at the moment — could come in at between 220p-230p a share. And on the face of it, an Airtours takeover is more attractive to First Choice stockholders than the Kuoni merger, in which a new company is being set up to buy both Kuoni and First Choice. If Airtours offered cash, and First Choice shareholders want cash, it would be preferable.

But there is a serious risk that a First Choice/Airtours link could be blocked by the regulators. So apparent is the risk that it may even prevent Airtours from trying. First Choice shareholders must consider the possibility that the price of their stock could fall if takeover ambitions are stymied by regulatory disapproval.

Yet even if Airtours decides against a move, the climate looks good ahead of the proposed Kuoni merger. The industry has cut capacity this summer by 3 per cent and is also enjoying a 5 per cent rise in bookings. That means there are fewer last-minute seats to sell at a discount and that means better margins.

The Airtours rumours — allied to the threat by Thomson *to become involved — emphasises the long-term attraction* of First Choice shares. Hold.

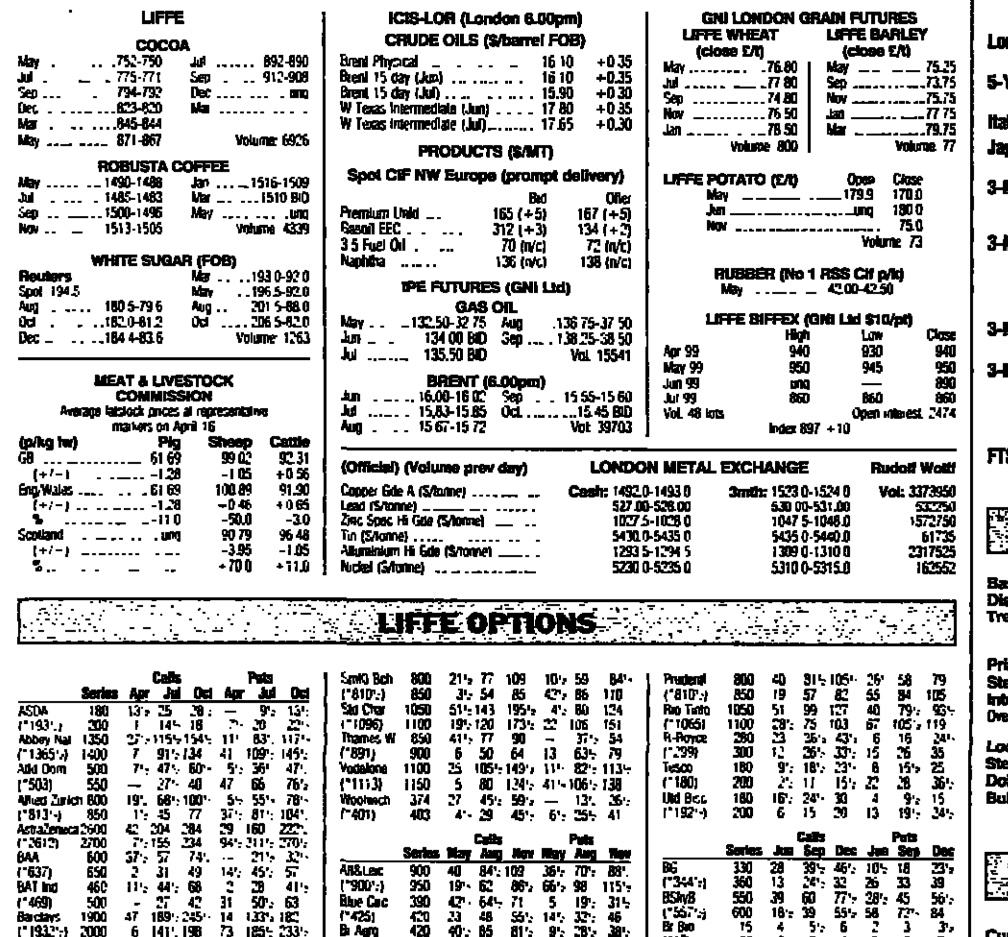
HIT

CHILDREN'S program*ming is good business* for two reasons. First, the audience is constantly renewed. It grows up as new consumers toddle along. Secondly, HIT's five and ten-minute cartoons — which sport such delightful names as *Kipper the Dog* and *Bob the Builder* — are easily refreshed and adapted for foreign language markets. Allied to these attractions is the growth of new channelling that underpins the potential in all television production firms.

Companies can benefit from good programming ideas, clearly. But they also need the capital backing to be able to hang on to the licensing and merchandising opportunities. Many of HIT's peers have to sell these profit *streams in order to stay* in the production game.

Unfortunately for sharebuyers, HIT's attractions are well known. Its price has marched from 163p at flotation three years ago to 667½p yesterday. That is 40 plus *times current year earnings* expectations. Look for value elsewhere.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE



COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

May	752-750	Jul	892-890
Jul	775-771	Sep	912-908
Sep	794-792	Dec	unq
Dec	823-820	Mar	
Mar	845-844		
May	871-867		Volume 6926

ROBUSTA COFFEE

May	1490-1488	Jan	1516-1509
Jul	1485-1483	Mar	1510 BID
Sep	1500-1495	May	unq
Nov	1513-1505		Volume 4339

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	193.0-92.0
Spot 194.5		May	196.5-92.0
Aug	180.5-79.6	Aug	201.5-88.0
Oct	182.0-81.2	Oct	206.5-82.0
Dec	184.4-83.6		Volume 1263

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 16

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	61.69	99.02	92.31
(+/-)	-1.28	-1.05	+0.56
Eng/Wales	61.69	100.89	91.90
(+/-)	-1.28	-0.46	+0.65
%	-11.0	-50.0	-3.0
Scotland	unq	90.79	96.48
(+/-)		-3.95	-1.05
%		+70.0	+11.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)
CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	16.10	+0.35
Brent 15 day (Jun)	16.10	+0.35
Brent 15 day (Jul)	15.90	+0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	17.80	+0.35
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	17.65	+0.30

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	165 (+5)	167 (+5)
Gasoil EEC	312 (+3)	134 (+2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	70 (n/c)	72 (n/c)
Naphtha	136 (n/c)	138 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

May	132.50-32.75	Aug	136.75-37.50
Jun	134.00 BID	Sep	138.25-38.50
Jul	135.50 BID		Vol: 15541

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	16.00-16.02	Sep	15.55-15.60
Jul	15.83-15.85	Oct	15.45 BID
Aug	15.67-15.72		Vol: 39703

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	76.80	May	75.25
Jul	77.80	Sep	73.75
Sep	74.80	Nov	75.75
Nov	76.50	Jan	77.75
Jan	78.50	Mar	79.75
Volume 800		Volume 77	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
May	179.9	170.0
Jun	unq	180.0
Nov		75.0
		Volume 73

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
May 42.00-42.50

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 99	940	930	940
May 99	950	945	950
Jun 99	unq	—	890
Jul 99	860	860	860
Vol: 48 lots			Open interest 2474

Index 897 +10

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1492.0-1493.0	1523.0-1524.0	3373950
Lead ($/tonne)	527.00-528.00	530.00-531.00	532250
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1027.5-1028.0	1047.5-1048.0	1572750
Tin ($/tonne)	5430.0-5435.0	5435.0-5440.0	61735
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1293.5-1294.5	1309.0-1310.0	2317525
Nickel ($/tonne)	5230.0-5235.0	5310.0-5315.0	162552

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 99	116.63	117.19	116.55	117.05	17555	82597
	Sep 99				116.75	0	0
5-Year Gilt	Jun 99				107.82	0	0
	Sep 99				107.82	0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Jun 99	114.38	114.70	113.94	114.50	18153	37146
Japanese Govt Bond	Jun 99	134.19	134.34	134.16	134.30	1089	0
	Sep 99				133.40	0	0
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 99	94.850	94.850	94.810	94.840	24779	184567
	Sep 99	94.840	94.870	94.810	94.850	23089	194801
	Dec 99	94.590	94.630	94.570	94.620	8744	146538
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 99	97.385	97.395	97.380	97.390	20512	216021
	Sep 99	97.380	97.405	97.375	97.400	27553	212884
	Dec 99	97.160	97.190	97.145	97.180	8666	124277
	Mar 00	97.225	97.260	97.205	97.245	15173	107633
	Jun 00	97.125	97.170	97.105	97.155	12684	65133
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 99	99.010	99.010	98.980	99.000	6134	110140
	Sep 99	98.920	98.920	98.890	98.910	4100	73879
3-Mth Euro Libor	Jun 99	97.385	97.385	97.380	97.390	1080	104490
	Sep 99	97.385	97.385	97.380	97.400	1061	92837
	Dec 99	97.155	97.155	97.150	97.180	1003	83107
	Mar 00	97.210	97.210	97.210	97.245	1337	83880
	Jun 00	97.110	97.110	97.110	97.155	1043	63416
FTSE 100	Jun 99	6480.0	6575.0	6455.0	6570.0	23957	199336
	Sep 99				6630.0	0	4897

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5¼ Finance House 5½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¼ Low 5 Week fixed: 5¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5, 3 mth 4⅞ Sell: 2 mth 4¾, 3 mth 4⅞

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5⅛-5¹⁄₁₆	5⅛-5¹⁄₁₆	5⅛-5¹⁄₁₆	5⅛-5¹⁄₃₂	
Sterling Money Rates:	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5⅛-5¼
Interbank:	5½-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5⅛-5¼

Overnight: open 5¼, close 6½

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	5⅛	n/a	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Sterling CDs:	5¼-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛
Dollar CDs:	4.84	n/a	4.90	4.96	5.22
Building Society CDs:	5⅛-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5⅛-5¼

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	4⅞-4¾	5-4¾	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-5⅛	5-4
Sterling:	5⅛-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5⅛-5¼	5¼-5
Euro:	2⅞-2¾	2⅞-2¾	2¾-2¾	2⅞-2¾	3ds-3pr
Yen:	⅞-⅞	⅞-⅞	1-¾	1⅛-1	1-par
Canada:	4¾-4¾	4¾-4¾	4¾-4⅝	4⅞-4⅞	5¼-4¾

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $284.50-284.80 **Close:** $283.20-283.70 **High:** $284.50-284.80
Low: $283.20-283.70 **AM:** $284.65 **PM:** $284.20
Krugerrand: $284.00-286.00 (£176.75-178.75)
Platinum: $365.50 (£226.10) **Silver:** $5.115 (£3.175) **Palladium:** $379.00 (£234.45)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 19	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	11.275-11.319	11.284-11.294	¼-⅛pr	⅝-½pr
Euro	1.5179-1.5199	1.5181-1.5196	0.13-0.16ds	0.41-0.45ds
Montreal	2.3882-2.3941	2.3882-2.3912	0.14-0.07pr	0.43-0.29pr
New York	1.6115-1.6176	1.6115-1.6124	0.06-0.04pr	0.118-0.087pr
Oslo	12.543-12.593	12.547-12.563	⅛-¼ds	¼-½ds
Stockholm	13.474-13.544	13.491-13.515	⅜-¼pr	⅞-⅝pr
Tokyo	190.13-191.12	190.17-190.44	⅞-⅝pr	2½-2⅛pr
Zurich	2.4294-2.4393	2.4305-2.4334	1-⅞pr	2⅝-2½pr

Source: Exdal Premium = pr Discount = ds

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5337-1.5349
Canada	1.4798-1.4808
Denmark	6.9870-6.9900
Euro	0.9387-0.9416
Hong Kong	7.7480-7.7485
Japan	117.81-117.86
Malaysia	3.7995-3.8005
Norway	7.7740-7.7800
Singapore	1.7035-1.7045
Sweden	8.3565-8.3665
Switzerland	1.5054-1.5064

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6145-1.6155
Australia dollar	2.4737-2.4782
Bahrain dinar	0.6005-0.6157
Brazil real*	2.6890-2.6990
Cyprus pound	0.8610-0.8824
Euro	1.5183-1.5209
Finland markka	8.8919-9.0548
Greece drachma	483.75-495.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.5114-12.5208
India rupee	68.32-70.04
Indonesia rupiah	13613.0-14313.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4860-0.4984
Malaysia ringgit	6.1358-6.1412
New Zealand dollar	2.9389-2.9450
Pakistan rupee	78.90 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8000-5.9472
Singapore dollar	2.7515-2.7536
S Africa rand	9.7100-9.9617
U A E dirham	5.8525-6.0011

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

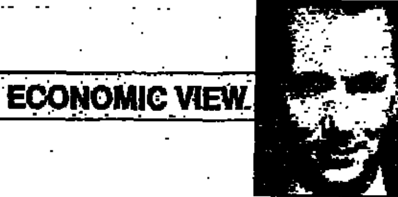
FTSE VOLUMES

3i	2,678	Kingfisher	9,926
ASDA Gp	26,435	Ladbroke	7,873
Abbey Ntl	1,927	Land Secs	1,695
Alnce & Leic	1,249	Legal & Gn	4,723
Allied Dom	4,948	Lloyds TSB	8,231
Allied Zrch	6,050	Marks Spr	6,363

[illegible]

WALL STREET

[illegible]



ECONOMIC VIEW — ANATOLE KALETSKY

High-techs on a high-wire act in Wall Street bubble

Plunging shares in American technology sector threaten tremors beyond Silicon Valley

What will happen to the American economic miracle when the personal computer becomes just another cheap electronic gadget, bolted together in China or Thailand out of components made in Korea and Taiwan?

What will happen to the profits of America's dominant high-tech companies when people access the Internet through souped-up phones costing just a few tens of dollars, while full-function personal computers start to sell in no-name plastic boxes for the same price as microwave ovens or colour television sets?

And how will these tech companies maintain their extraodrinary margins (in the case of Microsoft, a net 40.1 per cent on sales) once their business customers realise they are being exploited and transfer the humdrum business of ordering computers from gullible information managers into the hands of ordinary purchasing managers who will expect the same sort of bulk discounts they now extract for purchases of filing cabinets, desk phones and swivelling office chairs?

I have been asking these questions for several years now, since I was first struck by the peculiar economic distortion that seemed to lie behind the personal computer industry's astonishing financial success.

The personal computer was essentially a pretty simple, unbranded, commodity product with little in the way of advanced technological content. But it was manufactured by an industry whose own production costs were falling at the rate of 50 per cent or more each year.

On the basis of normal economic principles, one would have expected PC prices to fall rapidly and the profits of manufacturers and software suppliers to disappear. This was what generally happened to consumer electronics — and there was intrinsically nothing more complicated or expensive about a computer than a television set or a VCR.

Yet two companies — Microsoft and Intel — had managed to turn the normal consequences of competition upside down. Instead of PC prices falling to reflect lower production costs and vast economies of scale, the features attached to computers kept growing, while their prices remained more or less unchanged — at about $2,000 (£1,200). By constantly changing their specifications the dominant computer manufacturers and component suppliers were able to squeeze extraordinarily high profit margins (Microsoft's net margin on sales last year was 40.1 per cent) out of their bewildered customers.

Sooner or later this business model was bound to break down as consumers and business users alike realised that they were paying for an alphabet soup of "enhancements" — MMX, Active-X, SCSI, USB — which hey did not need and which actually made their computers larger and less reliable.

This finally started to happen in the US consumer market about a year ago and, more recently, in the business markets and around the world. Wall Street nevertheless assumed that high-tech companies would somehow remain invulnerable to the financial effects. But once computer prices really start crashing, will even Intel and Microsoft be able to avoid drastic price cuts and massive declines in profits, once PC manufacturers are forced to sell their finished boxes for $200 instead of $2,000?

Commonsense questions such as these, which were blithely ignored while the high-tech bubble expanded on Wall Street, are starting to be asked with growing urgency by American economists and investors as the bubble begins to implode. After last week's sudden plunge in technology shares, set off by Wednesday's warning from Compaq, the world's largest PC manufacturer, that its profits would be about half analysts' expectations, it is worth considering what might be the consequences of a possible financial earthquake in Silicon Valley, not only on Wall Street but also on the American economy and the monetary policy of the Federal Reserve Board.

In terms of output and employment, high-tech, which in modern American parlance is synonymous with the computer and communications sectors, may only account for between 5 and 10 per cent of the US economy, depending on definitions. But high-tech is far more important as a financial phenomenon and as a driver of investment, profits and productivity growth.

Microsoft, for example, employs only 27,000 people and has revenues of just $14.5 billion, but it is now far and away the world's most valuable company. In fact, the $420 billion total price of its shares in late March on Wall Street was greater than the combined valuations of General Motors, Ford, Exxon, Boeing and Du Pont combined, companies which between them generate 30 times as much revenue and employ 100 times as many people.



Such mind-boggling figures — reminiscient of the calculations done in Japan in the late 1980s, which showed that the value of the land surrounding the Imperial Palace in Tokyo was worth more than the entire state of California — may be of primary interest to stock market investors worried about the impact of the high-tech bubble on the valuations of Wall Street.

In fact, in the past 12 months the high-tech sector has been almost single-handedly driving the bull market on Wall Street. If Microsoft, Intel, AT&T, Dell and a handful of other high-tech giants were taken out of the index, the S&P 500 would actually be down on the year.

But the impact of the American high-tech boom on the US and world economies extends far beyond the financial markets. By some calculations, as much as 40 per cent of incremental investment spending in the past five years in America has been related to information technology. Most importantly, there is now a widespread consensus in America, embracing professional economists, business leaders and Federal Reserve officials, that the benefits of high-tech investment can go a long way to explain the near-miraculous "new paradigm" of American economic growth.

Alice Rivlin, the Fed's deputy chairman, said last week that the Fed had decided to re-examine critically all the traditional economic concepts which purported to link inflation with low unemployment and economic growth.

It was possible, she noted, that the new technologically driven economy would permanently produce more benign economic conditions than any America has seen before. In the past, very low unemployment generally led to higher wages, rising inflation and falling productivity, as less skilled workers were brought into the labour market. But today, the shortages of workers were encouraging businesses to redouble their investments in new technology. As a result, labour shortages could, according to Ms Rivlin, actually raise productivity and even help to push inflation downwards — contrary to the findings of conventional economic models.

To many conventional economists (myself included) Mr Rivlin's comments smacked of precisely the kind of millennarian over-optimism that one would expect to hear near the top of an economic cycle, just when inflation was finally about to threaten a long period of extremely stable growth.

It would be quite appropriate, therefore, if the Fed's conversion to new-era thinking coincided precisely with the bursting of the Wall Street high-tech bubble. The fact that last week's collapse in technology shares coincided with an equally sudden upsurge in inflation-sensitive oil, paper, commodity and other heavy industry stocks on Wall Street, drew further attention to the possible threats to America's "new paradigm" of non-inflationary economic growth.

Of course, a fall in the price of computer shares would not in itself detract from the productivity-enhancing effects of using computers. On the contrary, the availability of cheaper and simpler computers should, if anything, help to accelerate productivity growth. From this point of view, the bad news for shareholders of Compaq and Microsoft should be very good news for the US economy as a whole. But such optimism begs questions about the real role of computer technology in the American economy's spectacularly successful recent performance.

Has the key role of personal computer technology been, as Ms Rivlin appears to believe, to revolutionise the efficiency of American business, thereby allowing living standards to grow rapidly without inflation? Or has the PC's biggest economic effect been to create the high-tech stock market bubble that has powered personal consumption and fuelled business investment? And if the financial bubble related to the PC finally blows up, will economic optimism continue to drive the American economy forward?

If the stock market trends of the past few days persist, these questions will be asked more urgently across America and may even start to be answered.



David Glass, president of Wal-Mart, leads staff in a chorus of the company song

Wal-Mart casts big shadow over Asda deal with Kingfisher

Sarah Cunningham reports on the US retail giant that is waiting in the wings

Kingfisher and Asda say, indeed they insist, that their planned merger has nothing to do with the possible arrival in the UK of Wal-Mart. No one believes them.

Wal-Mart is not only the biggest retailer in the world, it is twice as big as its nearest rival. With an annual turnover of $137 billion (£85 billion), it makes the combined Kingfisher/Asda sales of £17 billion look distinctly puny.

In the US, Wal-Mart operates out of huge warehouses, offering rock-bottom prices on everything from food to clothing to electronic equipment. It has opened in a number of overseas markets, in Latin America and the Far East, and has in the past two years made its first move into Europe.

It has bought two hypermarket businesses in Germany: the 21-store Wertkauf chain and 74 hypermarkets acquired from the Spar Handels group. By entering Germany, it is taking on Metro, the largest European retail group. Wal-Mart has been offering deep discounts that Metro has been forced to match.

Retailers in the UK are nervous that if Wal-Mart arrives on our shores it will do the same. It will be great news for consumers, but would wreck the plans of other mass market retailers, from Safeway to John Lewis. Wal-Mart — and a handful of continental operators — could yet choose to spoil the Kingfisher deal by coming in with a cash offer for Asda. Enough investors are convinced it will happen to have pushed the Asda price above the value of Kingfisher's all-share offer.

Germany is in many ways a much easier market for Wal-Mart to enter than the UK. "It has a price-sensitive culture and Germany has pretty poor retailing standards," one analyst said.

Germany also has far more small, family-owned hypermarket operators, which can be easier to acquire. "Then again," the analyst said, "let's not pretend. If Wal-Mart wanted to buy something here, it could easily do it."

Asda has long been seen as the obvious target for Wal-Mart. It has some of the largest stores in the UK — although they are still only one fifth the size of Wal-Mart's largest — and it has a similar hyped-up company culture. Although Asda refuses to comment, there is little doubt that Asda and Wal-Mart have discussed a deal.

Wal-Mart has built up a warchest of about $8 billion, and could buy one of Asda's largest rivals such as J Sainsbury or — in what would be the best catch of all — Tesco. Tesco, the market leader in the UK, is also developing a strong hypermarket business in Eastern Europe, which would fit beautifully with Wal-Mart's German business.

Wal-Mart took the position of the world's largest retailer in 1992, just 30 years after it was founded by Sam Walton. The son of an Oklahoma farmer, he opened his first store in Arkansas, where the business is still based, and by 1971 had just 38. In the next ten years this had grown to 330, although this still left it as only the 33rd-largest retailer in the US.

During the Eighties, it began studying its rivals closely, adopting new technology at a very early stage, and building up a highly efficient distribution system. When Sam Walton died in 1992, his family was worth $25 billion.

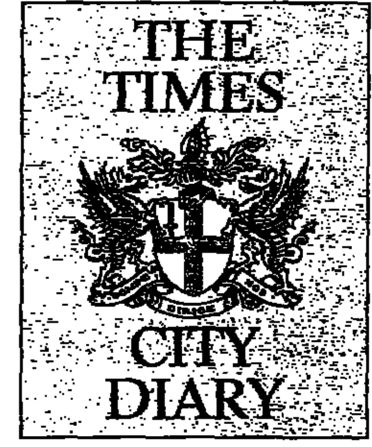
Wal-Mart pioneered the art of motivating workers, something that British retailers have tried to emulate with varying degrees of success. The company's 850,000 employees still take part daily in the Wal-Mart cheer, in which they spell out the company name and ask: "Who's number one? the customer!" And, in a practice somewhat reminiscent of China under Chairman Mao, the one question that staff are always meant to ask themselves is "What would Sam do?"

The "ten-foot attitude" obliges store workers to look customers in the eye, greet them, and ask if they need any help whenever they pass within ten feet. It is all part of what Sam Walton called "aggressive hospitality", and much of it has been adopted in the UK, most vigorously by Asda.

The other part of the Wal-Mart formula is extremely efficient backroom operations. Warehouse staff at Wal-Mart's US distribution centres no longer need to work from printed instructions when making up an order. Instead, they wear a headset that allows them to move around the storeroom taking spoken instructions from a computer. They can also talk back to the computer, asking for clarification and further instructions. The system gives Wal-Mart one of the fastest and most efficient order fulfilment systems in the world.

Curiously, although Kingfisher insists that its strategy has nothing to do with defending itself against Wal-Mart, its in-house magazine has carried articles on how the US company operates. Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive of Kingfisher, is clearly someone who follows the old maxim of "know thine enemy".

Taking advice

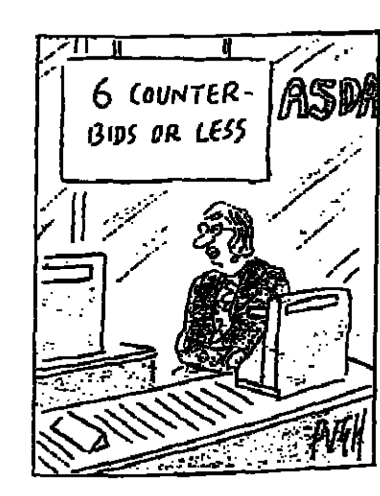


THE awfully named Invensys, the group formed by the merger between BTR and Siebe, which has been advertising to baffled readers of national newspapers this week, is now following in a familiar City tradition by requiring advisers to fight each other for their jobs.

The engineering conglomerate, just like Diageo and Royal & SunAlliance before it, is whittling down its list of City advisers. There are currently seven. Siebe used, deep breath, Warburg Dillon Read and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson as well as retaining Morgan Stanley "for strategic issues".

BTR had CSFB, Cazenove, Schroders and Goldman Sachs — and much good it did them, now I come to think of it. Goldman and Morgan Stanley have been involved in a strategic review of Invensys, but this does not mean they will survive.

One likely and piquant outcome, though, would be a tender reunion between Simon Robertson, who left Kleinwort after falling out with the Germans and is now at Goldmans, and his old friends there. Expect results by early next month.



SO WHAT kept you? The Asda-Kingfisher merger details were expected at 7.30 yesterday morning, then definitely forecast for 11.00am. They hit the screens after 1.00pm, barely in time for the analysts to absorb them before their briefing an hour later.

The delay, I learn, came because someone had to translate the documents into French, for the benefit of Kingfisher's French shareholders. Someone might have thought of that beforehand.

Swiss role

THERE is a rule that says the further they fall, the higher they bounce. One of the least-popular men in the City, whose fall delighted many of his ex-employees, has just landed a new and well-paid job.

Mathis Cabiallavetta, who led Union Bank of Switzerland into the "merger" with Swiss Bank Corporation in 1997 and then lost a large proportion of his workforce while the majority of their SBC counterparts kept their jobs, is becoming vice-chairman of mega-rich Marsh & McLennan, the American financial services outfit.

Cabiallavetta's own Waterloo came last October when the Swiss had to admit to a £400 million loss on the Long Term Capital Management hedge fund and he lost his job.

He is based at Zurich and will have offices both there and in New York, where he will "work to advance the strategic development of the company's global activities", whatever that means. His new employer owns Putnam Investments, the investment manager. I ring New York to ask how much Putnam itself lost on LTCM, but no one seems to know.

A RARE chance next week to hear Francesco Borelli, head of the Milan magistrate pool and the man whose investigations burst open the two main political parties in Italy, on investigating and prosecuting high-profile corruption and serious fraud.

Borelli's probe into financial links between business and politics led to the disgrace and exile of Bettino Craxi, the former PM, and he is something of a hero in his native country. He will speak at Middle Temple Hall, courtesy of the British Italian Law Association and the British-Italian Society.

Also there is David Calvert-Smith, our Director of Public Prosecutions. So far there are 140 acceptances, but not one, the organisers tell me, from our own Serious Fraud Office — or from the Financial Services Authority or any of its subordinate bodies.

Goa, Goa, gone

WHEN Keith Oates launched his failed bid for the Marks & Spencer leadership last autumn, it was assumed that Sir Richard Greenbury was in India on holiday. As I can now reveal, he was spearheading M&S's ambitious new venture there.

Admittedly, Marks & Spencer (India) has yet to progress beyond the beachfront at Goa, and as you can see below, there are still a few difficulties with the corporate branding. But a visitor reports that the store manager's motto is: "If we haven't got it in stock, we will get it by tomorrow."

When was the last time you heard that at one of Marks & Spencer's high street branches?

MARTIN WALLER

city.diary@the-times.co.uk



Equities close at best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1999 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
615½	446	Allied Domecq	502½	+ 4½	6.1	12.1
350	279½	Bulmer (HP)	347½	+ 18½	4.3	15.5
19	10½	Burn Stewart	19	+ 1½	..	..
742	625	Diageo	676	+ 39	2.8	18.8
730	550	Glenmorangie A	572½		2.5	15.5
286	222½	Highland Distl	246½	− 1	3.9	11.6
29¾	25	Merrydown W	25½		..	..

BANKS

[illegible]

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

[illegible]

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

[illegible]

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

[illegible]

HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

LEISURE & HOTELS

[illegible]

MEDIA

[illegible]

PHARMACEUTICALS

[illegible]

MINING

[illegible]

OIL & GAS

[illegible]

OTHER FINANCIAL

[illegible]

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

[illegible]

LONGS (over 15 years)

[illegible]

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

[illegible]

UNDATED

[illegible]

INDEX-LINKED

[illegible]

PRINTING & PAPER

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

RETAILERS, FOOD

[illegible]

RETAILERS, GENERAL

[illegible]

SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

[illegible]

TRANSPORT

[illegible]

WATER

[illegible]

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

[illegible]

Source: FT Information

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
ACM INVESTMENTS LTD				
0171 470 0100				
Short Dur Gilt	139.40	141.00	- 0.10	
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.8466	0.8577	- 0.04	
Gilt Income	55.03	55.95	- 0.12	5.40
Gilt Growth	100.70	102.30	- 0.30	
Sterling Bond	56.09	57.10	- 0.02	5.50
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	148.84	158.67	- 0.10	
-do- NAV to Jun 19	145.55	145.58		
UK Equity Safeguard	119.37	127.67	- 0.37	2.87
-do- NAV to Mar 19	116.050	116.0506		
US Eqy Safeguard	99.61	105.59	- 0.20	
Cash	952.03	962.62		4.50
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	452.35	480.87	- 3.14	1.07
UK Small Cos	97.81	104.60	- 0.61	0.31
FTSE 250 Index	118.43	120.66	- 1.83	1.64
Geared UK Index	#25.757	#27.190	- 0.09	4.93
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	89.25	91.21	- 0.09	5.12
Monthly Inc	44.72	47.83	- 0.08	7.50
International Funds				
American Gen	330.88	413.06	- 6.06	
American Smll	181.93	194.14	- 1.00	
US UC Index	#31.359	#33.039	- 0.24	4.50
European Gen	441.90	467.64	- 1.27	0.08
European Smll	210.79	224.90	- 3.08	

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
LAWRENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 556 8000				
Bridge Income #	413.26	439.64†	+ 1.64	4.83
Esk Growth	157.42	167.47†		0.53
Inc & Growth #	110.24	117.28	+ 0.32	2.46
Smaller Cos	132.39	140.84†	+ 2.65	1.35
Evy Spec Sit Inc	63.44	67.49	+ 0.65	1.91
Evy Spec Sit Acc	68.41	72.78	+ 0.71	1.91
Pegasus Growth	61.12	65.02†	+ 0.15	0.88
M M JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01629 026857				
Balanced Fd #	1676.30	1700.10†		2.70
Income #	1342.00	1362.30†		3.80
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	225.10	230.10†		2.85

[illegible]

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c.Five Years' PQE - Great Prospects

It's not surprising that one of the first finance led firms to seize the opportunity to develop the synergies between its thriving finance practice and its focused property practice is now firmly established as a top player in property finance work.

So it won't shock you to learn that our Client's dynamic property finance team is leading the way in structuring innovative property finance deals for a terrific list of blue chip banks – a list which has expanded year on year as their success continues to inspire confidence among the City's most desirable clients.

It makes sense then that our Client has recognised this team as a core business area going forward. Due to planned growth they are looking for another specialised property finance lawyer with a minimum of four years' relevant banking/finance experience to join in the growth and development of the group. If you have the technical excellence, business development skills and ambition required, our Client can demonstrate all the commitment you will need, both to your career development and your area of specialisation. If you are already a Partner elsewhere, our Client would also be interested in talking to you.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact **Debbie Cochrane** or **Joe Macrae** on **0171 523 1240** (evenings/weekends 0181 374 8455) or write to them at **ZMB**, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PL. Confidential fax: 0171 523 3839. E-mail: **debbie.cochrane@zarakgroup.com**



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This top ten City and international law firm is well known for its distinctive approach to the law - an informal style that puts personality and professionalism on an equal footing. It is also a firm which has recognised the importance of technology in the expansion of its practice generally and is therefore wholly committed to driving forward its IP/IT practice.

The IP/IT department handles a wide variety of transaction and dispute work reflecting the broad range of industries in the firm's blue chip client base. Much of the work is international and requires an ability to handle large scale and complex structures and documents.

The firm seeks senior practitioners who will be excited by the opportunity of playing a key role in the expansion of this core practice area. You are likely to be an existing partner, either from a major City or Regional firm who has successfully developed a specialist profile. You will enjoy the process of practice development and will be keen to work with and develop an ambitious and talented young team to support a wide ranging client base.

For the appropriate successful candidate the firm will recruit directly into equity partnership.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact **Stephen Rodney** or **Greg Abrahams** on 0171 405 6062 (0171 435 4663 evenings/weekends) or write to them at **QD Legal** 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394. email rodneysm@qdgroup.co.uk / abrahamg@qdgroup.co.uk.



INTERNATIONAL MEDIA COMPANY

Legal Adviser

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Listed in New York, this fast growing entertainment company operates a DTH platform and cable network - comprising 22 channels of programming. With the planned launch of a premium sports channel and increase of channel output to 32, the company expects to establish a premier position in the European market, having successfully completed a major bond and equity financing programme.

Since its inception in 1997 the company has expanded rapidly and now seeks a 2-5 year qualified media/commercial lawyer to take on a pivotal role at this crucial and exciting time in its development. Reporting to the Head of Legal, but working closely alongside the DTH management, the successful individual will be part of the programming management team, based at its operational headquarters in the South East.

You will need television experience, preferably programming acquisitions - either in-house from a TV, video or film company, or one of their distributors - or from a private practice firm recognised for their expertise in this area. Exposure to international transaction work will be an advantage. With a good academic background, you should have an outgoing, proactive and commercial approach with the ability to gain credibility quickly both here and internationally. With a flexible outlook, you will need energy, vigour and enthusiasm to adapt well to the pioneering spirit of this dynamic and innovative company.

This is an excellent opportunity for a lawyer keen to take early responsibility and to break out of a strict legal role into the operational front line. A negotiable salary and benefits package.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact **June Meerie** or **Kate Sutcliffe** on 0171 405 6062 (0181 442 0841 or 0956 569 203 evenings/weekends), or write to them at **QD In-House Legal.**

Email meerieja@qdgroup.co.uk sutclifk@qdgroup.co.uk

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Banking & finance lawyers

US investment house
Structured products

Our client is a leading US house with an excellent global profile in origination, sales and trading and strategic advice.

The legal department is seeking a further lawyer (3 years'+ post qualification experience) to specialise in fixed income and structured product work. The firm's lawyers spend much of their working day on the trading floor, becoming an essential part of the structuring process. Suitable candidates will be able to 'see the bigger picture' and wish to apply their legal skills in a flexible and creative way. Much of the work will be secondary market orientated and will involve a large range of products including foreign exchange and credit derivatives.

Global investment bank
Fixed Income lawyer

Our client is one of the world's largest financial institution. It has a strong reputation for its service and products. On a global basis it arranges, underwrites and trades debt instruments of all types.

The in-house lawyers take an active part in the structuring, management and execution of transactions and are considered internally and externally to be a particularly high quality department. An additional member is sought with 1-3 years' pqe in debt capital markets and some knowledge of structured products, including repackagings. The role will involve significant liaison with the front office in the development of more innovative products. Remuneration is amongst the very best.

Global investment bank
Derivatives

This premier investment bank enjoys an enviable status for innovative product development.

A further lawyer is now required to join the existing derivatives team within the legal department. The functions of this group encompass all aspects of the bank's business in this area including structuring, advice and execution. Suitable applicants, who will have a high density of derivatives experience and not less than 4 years' experience, can expect the broadest range of OTC products, both fixed income and equity. An essential quality will be the ability to forge and maintain effective relationships with sales, trading and operations personnel at all levels in the bank.

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Zeneca Agrochemicals is now seeking additional talented lawyers with 1-3 years' corporate or commercial experience gained in a highly-regarded law firm or in-house legal department. A working knowledge of EC competition law and/or intellectual property matters, while not essential, would be a significant advantage in this role.

The skills set and experience you will acquire from working within a dynamic business and legal environment are second to none. Furthermore you will have the satisfaction of becoming a member of a hardworking but friendly professional team in a leading international bioscience business.

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Foreign & Commonwealth Office

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, LUXEMBOURG

The Court of First Instance was established in 1988. It is attached to the Court of Justice of the European Communities and has its seat at the Court in Luxembourg. The Court has a wide jurisdiction, but deals mainly with competition and commercial matters, and with disputes between the institutions of the European Union and their staff.

The UK Judge of the Court is appointed by common accord of the Member States on the recommendation of the Government. Following Judge Christopher Bellamy's forthcoming appointment to the new Competition Commission, this post will fall vacant. The Government invites applications from candidates possessing the necessary qualifications and expertise for this important judicial appointment.

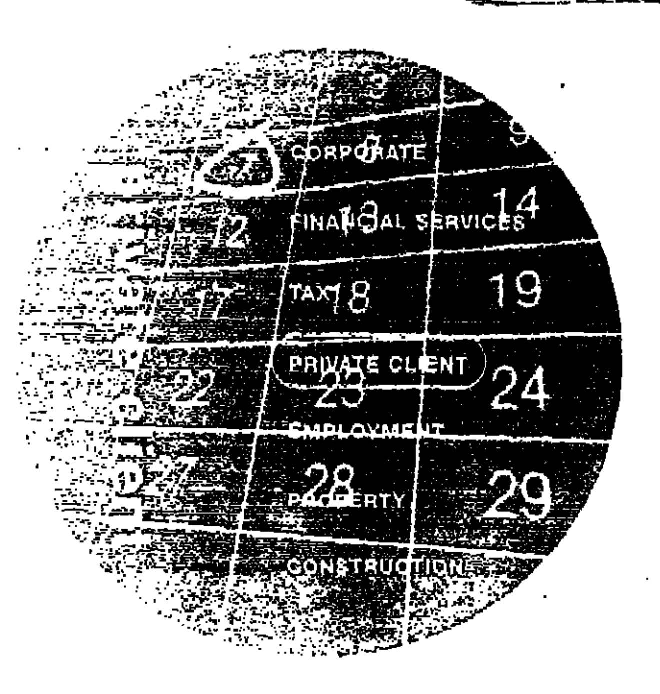
Applicants should normally be under 60 on 1 October 1999, when the successful candidate will be ready to take up appointment. They must possess a ten year general qualification (or its equivalent in Scotland or Northern Ireland). The successful applicant will be required to demonstrate a sound working knowledge of French, as the Court's deliberations are not subject to translation. Serving holders of judicial office are eligible to apply but, if successful, they will be expected to resign their office

The Government will select for appointment the best qualified candidate, regardless of ethnic origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion or (subject to the physical requirements of the office) disability.

An application form, together with further information for applicants, is available by telephoning 0171 210 8983 (voicemail will operate outside normal office hours) or by writing to:

Judicial Group Division 1B
Lord Chancellor's Department
Selborne House
54-60 Victoria Street
London SW1E 6QW
e-mail: jag.lcdhq@gtnet.gov.uk

Completed application forms must be returned by noon on Friday 14 May 1999



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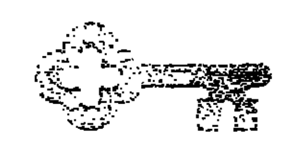
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As a result of continued growth in the region, Leasetec is seeking to appoint a European Regional Counsel. Based at its European Headquarters in Ascot, you will provide high-level advice to the business and establish the European legal function for the company.

With between 4 and 7 years' post-qualification experience, gained either in a City practice or in-house, you will have a strong commercial law and transactional background together with some involvement in corporate and finance issues. A knowledge of equipment leasing, whilst highly desirable, is not a prerequisite.

You will be a motivated, commercially-minded individual who is keen to contribute in a strategic manner to the business. Crucially you will be able to work autonomously, liaising effectively with local lawyers in each jurisdiction with the ability to deal comfortably with management at all levels internationally. Some travel will be required and a second European language would be an advantage.

This is a challenging and exciting opportunity for a high calibre individual to take on a pivotal role in this international company. In return, Leasetec offers an excellent package including competitive base salary plus a comprehensive benefits package.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact **June Mearle** on **0171 405 6062** (0181 442 0841 evenings/weekends) or write to her at **QD In-House Legal**.

email: mearleja@qdgroup.co.uk

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This assignment is being *exclusively handled by* QD In-House Legal and all direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them for consideration.





Banking & finance lawyers

Equity capital markets
Premier European house

This highly respected full service international organisation has a reputation for both professionalism and maturity in its business approach. It continues to grow organically and by way of a focused strategy of acquisitions.

The equity capital markets business area of investment banking has identified the need for a senior corporate finance lawyer (minimum of 4 years' pqe) with experience of IPOs to perform a commercial, advisory and transactional role as part of the talented Legal Department. The existing team consists of first class lawyers with refreshingly down to earth attitudes from the most senior member down. Remuneration and prospects for progression and first class.

Funds
Legal company secretary

Our client is the fund management subsidiary of an international financial services group. With total assets under management exceeding £45 bn and a global presence, it is a market leader.

The group legal department is seeking a further member to be responsible for a mixed portfolio of work advising both operating and administrative departments. The role will encompass general commercial contractual legal advice to the group and board, together with some specific fund and investment trust advice, although prior funds experience is not prerequisite. The position will also involve some secretariat duties and management of a company secretarial assistant, so an in depth knowledge of this area will be essential.

Senior derivatives lawyer
Major European house

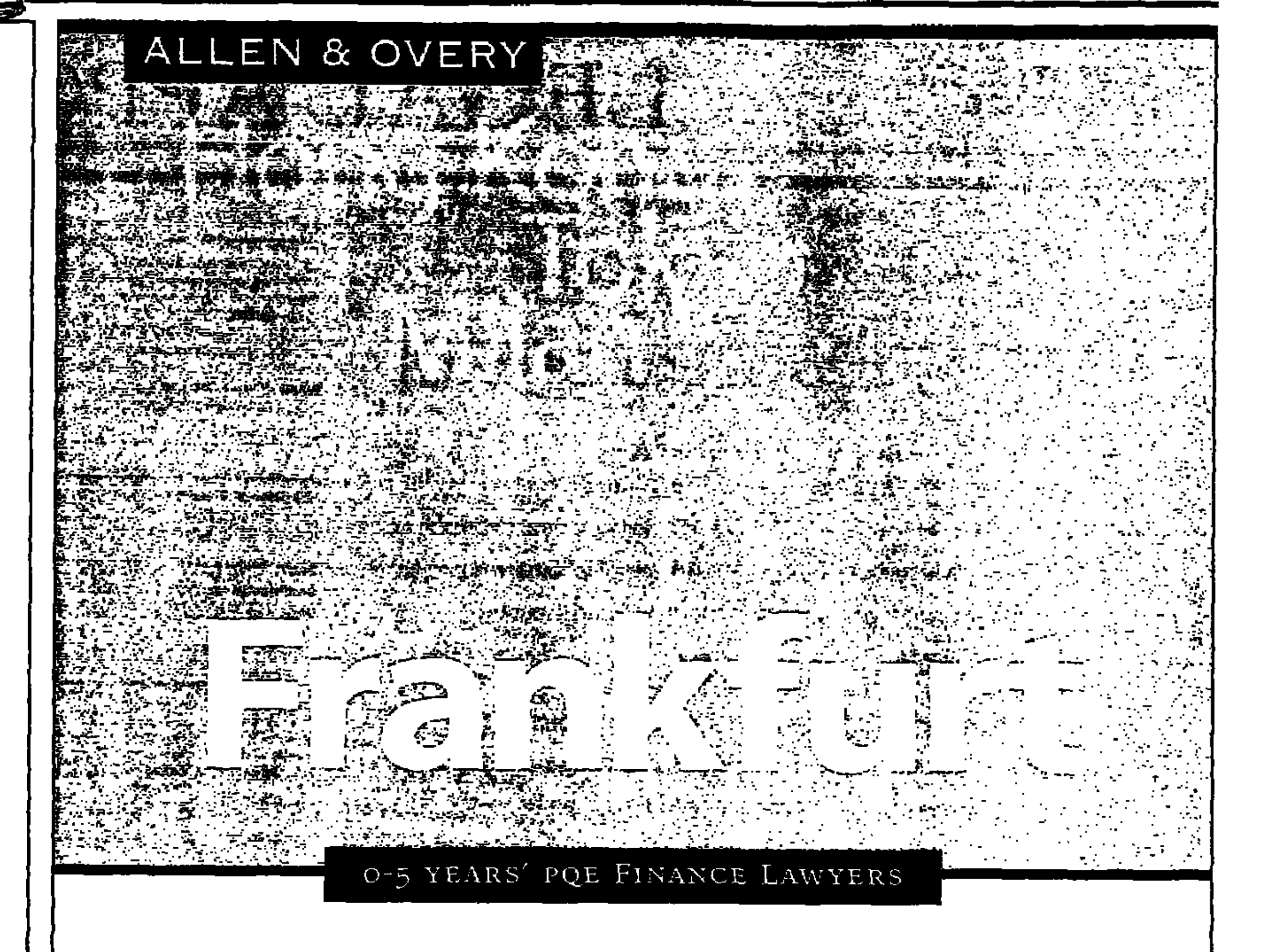
Our client is a large full service investment bank who has experienced international development success and is well-known for the speed and innovation of its banking services.

The legal department now wishes to appoint a senior specialist to assume responsibility for the derivatives business and related areas. Ideally candidates will have a min of 4 yrs' pqe and be capable of undertaking the broadest range of matters encompassing complex credit derivatives and structured trades and repackagings. It is also envisaged that the successful individual will manage more junior assistants. This is a unique opportunity to take up this first time appointment and build an expert team within a dynamic and supportive institution.

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0-5 YEARS' PQE FINANCE LAWYERS

Allen & Overy continues to widen the gap between itself and its competitors. Our role as a global player is more prominent than ever. We have achieved critical mass in all of the world's key financial centres.

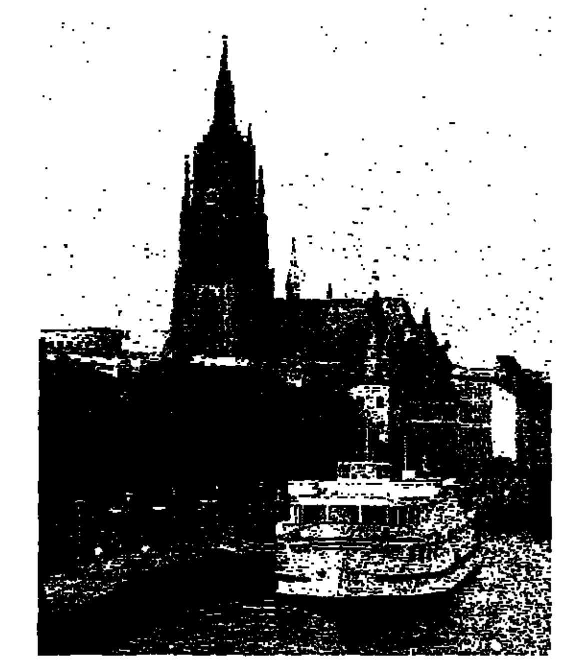
The Frankfurt office plays a key role in our strategic global expansion providing advice to corporations and financial institutions on all aspects of German, English and EC Law. Its broad finance practice in particular is set for continued growth.

As part of this expansion we now seek finance lawyers with up to 5 years' post qualification experience to assist in:

- *a broad range of capital markets and securitisation transactions; or*
- general banking, asset finance and project finance related work.

You will need to be UK qualified and fluent in both oral and written German. Ideally you will have relevant finance experience gained from a top city practice. Alternatively, you will be working as a finance lawyer in Germany. You may join our Frankfurt office directly or spend a period in our London office before moving to Frankfurt.

As Germany continues to play an increasingly influential role in Europe, this is an opportunity to be in the right place at the right time and play a significant role on the global legal stage.



For further information, in complete confidence, please contact **Greg Abrahams** or **Gavin Sharpe** in London on **0171 405 6062**, (0171 435 4663 eve/wkends). Alternatively, contact **Dr. Christof Ahe** in Frankfurt on **069/97544-328**, or write to them at **QD Legal**.
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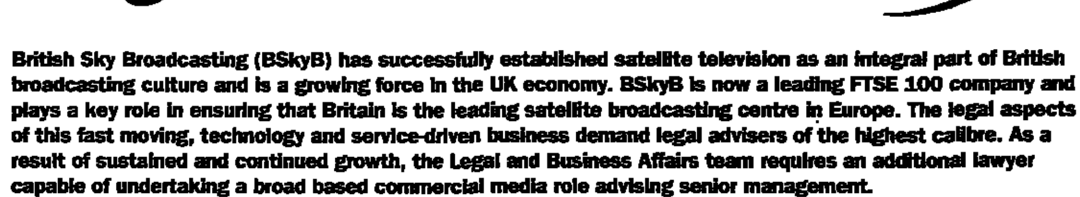
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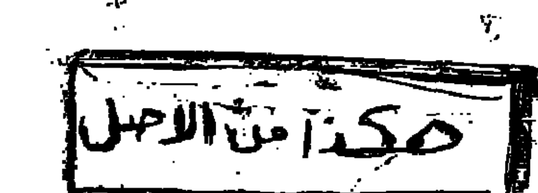
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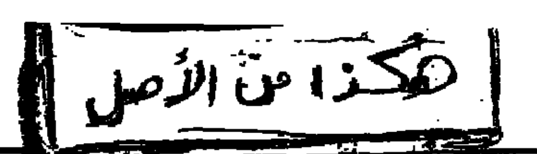


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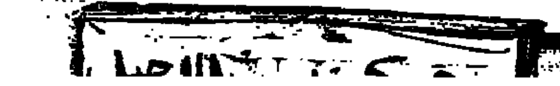
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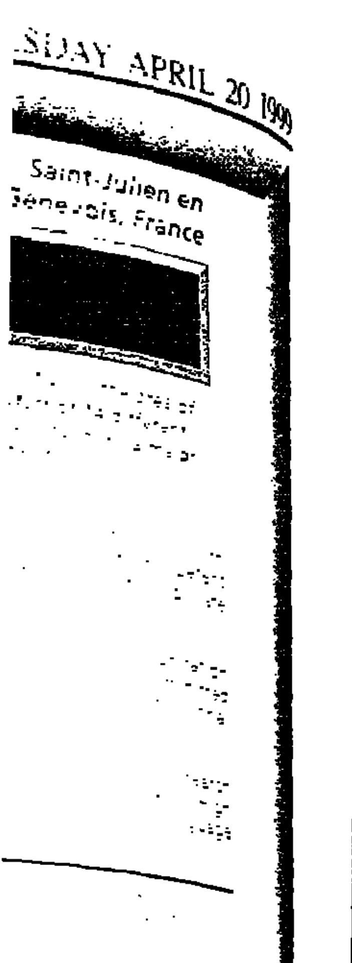
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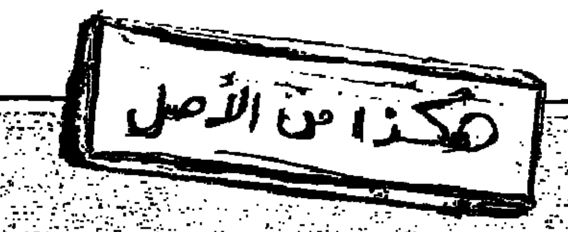
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LAW

GILL ALLEN



Smoked out: two firms have withdrawn from pursuing tobacco cases under the "no win" system, where the claimants had no insurance cover

Deal that could spell the end of legal aid

Plans for a 'no win, no fee' deal for accident compensation claims will deny people access to the legal system, say **Martyn Day** and **Frank Patterson**

Legal aid has for more than 20 years ensured access to justice for those who cannot afford to use the courts. Now it is about to be abolished — at least for accident compensation claims which make up most of civil case numbers.

The Government intends that access to justice will be maintained through "no win, no fee" deals in which lawyers take on cases for nothing and can charge an enhanced fee — a "success fee" — if they win.

But as the Access to Justice Bill starts going through the Commons, evidence is emerging to suggest that these plans will drive out any case that is not a sure winner, leaving consumers with no effective access to the legal system.

"No win no fee" deals, or *conditional fee arrangements*, came in four years ago. They depend crucially on insurance which covers the costs, so that the litigant is not left paying *the legal fees of the other side* should he or she lose.

In 1995 the Law Society negotiated a scheme, Accident Line Protect (ALP), with Abbey Life, *which provides such cover*. It can only be used by law firms who are members of the Law Society's Personal Injury Panel (ie, recognised as experts in *this field of law). But if the* firm joins the scheme, then it must use Accident Line in "no win, no fee" deals. In other words, there is no choice about *whether or not to issue a policy* to the client, let alone which insurer to use.

How does it work? The Accident Line scheme provides cover of a £100,000, which is adequate for most cases and its price for each case, either £95.68 or £161.20 (depending on the type of case), is good value bearing in mind the risks and costs of litigation.

But while law firms can spread their risks by ensuring "success fees" that reflect the risk on each case, insurers are stuck with a fixed premium and evidence suggests that they cannot make it pay.

In January ALP sought to suspend from membership a number of firms on the grounds of their claims record. Ours was one, despite a success rate close to 95 per cent. *Further, in the three cases* where claims on the policy were made, our costs were comparatively small (less than £10,000 in total).

Ultimately we were able to convince the insurance company that we should be allowed to continue operating the scheme. But the episode has clearly been a warning shot across our bows in terms of making future claims.

Accident Line Protect is a commercial enterprise and *must* expect to make a profit. Part of that process obviously involves ensuring that those law firms *it deals with work* effectively and efficiently with as few claims as possible. But the news that a success rate in excess of 95 per cent can be required may shock many lawyers. More importantly, where does it leave the public? What it means is that when legal aid goes, people cannot expect help with legal claims that have a less than 95 per cent chance of success. We do not believe the Government envisaged this — *indeed* the Lord Chancellor first spoke of legal aid being withheld where people had less than a 75 per cent chance of success. But he had to withdraw that because it would have denied access to justice to a large body of potential *litigants*.

Lawyers act for those who have suffered injury, often severe and disabling injury, which prevents them from working, causes them enormous stress and financial difficulty. Many such cases are pursued by lawyers — even though the chances of success *and being paid* are much less than this 95 per cent figure.

But lawyers will not want to risk being *thrown off the Accident* Line scheme. So they face a dilemma: do they stump up the losing side's costs themselves? Or not take the case on in the first place? Financial realities will mean such cases become unacceptable *risks and will not be pursued*.

Either personal injury lawyers must be allowed to use other insurers or the Government must agree to retain *legal aid for riskier cases* — which seems unlikely.

Last month our firm and another, Irwin Mitchell, withdrew from *pursuing* the tobacco cases under the "no win" system, where the claimants had no insurance cover. As far as we are aware this has been the only group case where the lawyers have been prepared to take on the full costs risk of the case. We estimated that the tobacco case had cost our firm around £2.5 million in lost profit costs. In light of this and recent defeats suffered by other firms, we cannot see being ready to bear a significant risk in a group claim.

There is a further problem. Under the reformed legal aid arrangements now in force, lawyers must carry a significant share of the risk in the pursuit of group actions. This is not unreasonable provided *that the balance is fair*. But recent court rulings indicate an increasingly hostile attitude to complex group claimants over claims beyond work-related illnesses. *Again, lawyers are* likely to refuse such cases or get their fingers burnt — with the gradual drying-up of the pool of those prepared to share risks in legal aid cases.

Should we stop pursuing environmental or product liability cases in the face of this attitude from the courts? In our view that would be a fundamental *blow* against our ideals of democracy and justice.

The exchange of conditional fees for legal aid in personal injury claims is clearly seen as a central plank of the Lord Chancellor's Brave New World. But here at the coalface, what *seemed a cracking idea in theory* has in practice become a scheme where enormous cracks have started to appear.

Lord Irvine of Lairg's faith *in the insurance market* will, we fear, mean that the scope of access to justice for claimants be determined by financial interests of insurers. Not much "brave" in that.

● *The authors are solicitors with Leigh Day & Co.*

Exposing the flaws in Britain's libel laws

Britain's libel laws may soon be tested — and found wanting — in the European Court of Human Rights. This challenge is expected to be brought after the Court of Appeal's recent decision to uphold many of the libel allegations in an action brought by the fast-food chain McDonald's against two environmental campaigners, Dave Morris and Helen Steel.

Their recent appeal resulted from a 314-day libel trial in 1997 in which Mr Justice Bell held that McDonald's had been libelled *in a leaflet containing criticisms about the* company's business practices. The judge awarded £60,000 damages to McDonald's. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal in part, and reduced the damages to £40,000.

The current state of the English law of defamation is impossible to reconcile with any developed concept of free speech. Defendants are liable even if they make statements that they reasonably believe to be true on matters of public *interest; the plaintiff may* receive substantial damages whether or not financial loss has been caused; and legal aid is unavailable.

David Pannick QC

London has long been the libel capital of the world. B-list celebrities, public figures with something discreditable to conceal, and companies oversensitive to criticism issue writs asserting that they have been "lowered in the esti*mation of right-thinking* people" by a newspaper article or other ephemeral publication which would long ago have been forgotten but for the plaintiff's insistence on telling the world of its contents. Our *libel law assumes that life is lived in a gentle*men's club in which damage to reputation is one of the most serious injuries that a person can suffer. In defamation law, the proper response to an insult is to challenge the culprit *to fight a high-risk public duel that* can be avoided only by a grovelling apology and a large tax-free sum of damages.

Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights guarantees the right to free*dom of expression. Any interference must* be necessary in a democratic society and proportionate. These criteria were stated by the European Court in *Lingens v Austria* in 1986 when it found that the rights of a journalist *had been breached when an Austrian court* fined him for publishing an article critical of the Chancellor, Bruno Kreisky. The European Court expressed its concern about state action which "would be likely to deter journalists from contributing to public discussion of issues affecting the life of the community", and so would impede public access to information. English law recognises the power of a writ to silence critics on matters of public importance and acknowledges that influential plaintiffs have other means to make *their* voice heard. For *those reasons*, in 1993 the House of Lords held that a local authority could not sue Times Newspapers for libel.

Lord Keith of Kinkel explained that the difficulty of proving allegations by admissible evidence "may prevent the publication of matters which it is very desirable to make public" in relation to a governmental body *which "should* be open to uninhibited public criticism", and which has other means of defending its reputation. The same principle was applied in 1997 to prevent the Referendum Party from suing a newspaper for libel.

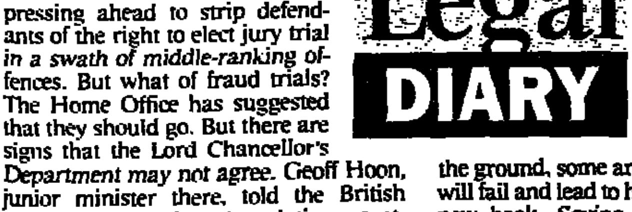
The McDonald's *case* concerned *matters* of public importance relating to the activities of a multinational company. Some of the allegations made by the campaigners were found by Mr Justice Bell to be true: that the company paid low wages to its workers in this country, was cruel in the rearing of some of its animals, and exploited children in the targeting of its ad*vertising. The Court of Ap*peal accepted that it was fair comment to say that McDonald's employees worldwide do badly in terms of pay and conditions, and there was justification for the allegation that too much McDonald's food provides the consumer with a high-fat diet creating a real risk of heart disease.

If Ms Steel and Mr Morris pursue their case in Strasbourg, the European Court is *likely to conclude that* English law fails adequately to control libel actions by companies.

Our law deters those who may have something of value to add to the public debate on the standards adopted by companies such as *McDonald's. That is especially so where* there is a lack of equality of arms, with the plaintiff able to employ lawyers of its choice and the defendants unable to claim legal aid, however strong their case on the merits and *however impecunious they may be. It is dis*proportionate to require such defendants to prove the truth of allegations made in good faith in matters of public interest against an organisation with ample resources to answer *criticisms and protect its reputation.*

The McLibel case has achieved what many lawyers thought impossible: to lower further the reputation of our law of defamation in the minds of all right-thinking people.

● *The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.*



☐ THE Home Secretary, Jack Straw, has indicated that he is pressing ahead to strip defendants of the right to elect jury trial *in a swath of middle-ranking* offences. But what of fraud trials? The Home Office has suggested that they should go. But there are signs that the Lord Chancellor's *Department may not agree*. Geoff Hoon, junior minister there, told the British Irish Law Technology Association recently that new technology *in the courts would* help juries in such trials and make "potentially unmanageable trials manageable".

☐ THE courts will close this Friday to prepare for W-Day — the coming *into force of* the Woolf reforms on April 26 to cut the delays and costs in civil disputes. But already Woolf fatigue is setting in. Among dozens of websites now running to help with the shake-up is one by the barrister Roger Horne, of 11 New Square, which he calls Yet Another Woolf Site — or YAWS for *short*. Even before the reforms are off the ground, some are predicting that they will fail and lead to higher legal costs. In a new book, *Saving Litigation*, Rowland *Williams, a lawyer who has worked in* Britain and the United States, says the reforms mostly deal with steps leading to trial, forgetting that 90 per cent of law suits settle before trial. "What really needs re*form* are the procedures to settlement," he says. Details: 01428 723140

☐ THE Lord Chancellor last week delivered a robust defence of the system for selecting Queen's Counsel or silks. It was a Kitemark of quality, he said. Exactly so, responds Andrew Dismore, the MP leading a campaign for the scrapping of the system, or at least its reform. If it is a Kitemark, it needs monitoring to see that QCs are up to scratch. His campaign is making some headway: the Government has agreed that the Bar should pay the annual £120,000 cost of choosing new silks via fees charged to applicants. Next stop for Dismore: a compulsory requirement for QCs *to do some free pro bono* work a year. "They can afford it," he says.

☐ THERE *is still time to register for the* Woman Lawyer Forum with its top-level speakers (Cherie Booth, QC, Kamlesh Bahl and others) on May 15: early registration discounts until April 23. Blair Com*munications: 0171-722 9731*

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Going a fumble too far

The law's professional conduct rules exist to protect clients from improper sexual advances, but it is in danger of being abused, says **Patrick Stevens**

Spring is in the air and the thoughts of the Legal Services Ombudsman have turned to sex. Or, to be more particular, to regulating it. Sex is not something that is usually associated with lawyers. To achieve that grey uniformity they are popularly believed to be cloned.

The present Ombudsman is Ann Abraham. She was appointed by the Lord Chancellor to oversee the handling of complaints about solicitors, barristers and licensed conveyancers by their respective professional bodies — in the case of the solicitors, the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors (OSS).

In a recent Ombudsman's Casebook in *The Law Society's Gazette*, she takes the OSS to task — not just for dilatoriness (it is struggling with a huge backlog of complaints against solicitors) — but for not paying sufficient attention to clients' hurt feelings. The latest Casebook takes matters even further with the sexual allegations of Ms A. Solicitors are not subject to the same rules as doctors concerning sexual relationships with their clients. This is for the simple reason that solicitors do not usually ask their clients to take their clothes off.

The current *Guide to the Professional Conduct of Solicitors* says that a solicitor should "consider" whether a sexual relationship with a client might place the solicitor's interests in conflict with the client, or otherwise impair the solicitor's ability to act in the best interests of the client.

In the case of Ms A, the complaint was by the residuary beneficiary of a will that the solicitor executor had "made improper suggestions and sexual advances towards her".

The complaint had been rejected by the OSS on the grounds that there had been no breach of the rules of professional conduct because Ms A was not the solicitor's client and there had been no sexual relationship. Normally that would have been the end of the matter.

Ms Abraham took a different view. She decided that the relevant principle was the rule which requires that solicitors should not use their position to take advantage of another person. "In this instance the suggestion was that an older, better educated, more powerful man had put a vulnerable, younger woman in an unwelcome situation." This indeed is a suggestion that could often be made.

The Ombudsman went on to say: "This is the sort of complaint that the OSS has to adjudicate on if the profession is to be competently regulated." Such an approach opens the way to every recipient of a solicitor's sexual advance being able to make a professional complaint. The capacity for mischief-making by former partners is infinite.

> The capacity for mischief-making is infinite

No one supports the serial lechers of our profession but the Ombudsman may be going a fumble too far. If a woman feels that she has been assaulted by a solicitor, then she should complain to the police, as the victim of Angus Diggle did. If she is the victim of sexual harassment in the workplace then employment tribunals offer remedies. Stalking is now illegal. But if a gay solicitor makes an advance to me which I find embarrassing, should I really be entitled to have him professionally disciplined?

Scottish lawyers considered these issues in a case which involved a solicitor fondling the buttocks of a young woman in a pub. The complaint was made not by the woman but by a fellow solicitor who witnessed the incident. The disciplinary tribunal rejected the complaint and, in a robust statement of principle, said that the regulation of personal behaviour, however disreputable it may appear, was not a matter for the Law Society unless it involved sexual advances to a client for perceived advantage.

Professional conduct rules exist to protect the public, not to regulate morality and sexual behaviour. The OSS has a backlog of 9,000 complaints and the figure is increasing by 95 complaints a week without the additional burden of dealing with every aggrieved former lover. The Ombudsman should confine herself to monitoring existing complaints and not to encouraging new ones.

● *The writer is a solicitor in private practice and the author of* Keeping Clients — A Client Care Guide for Solicitors. *The views expressed in this article are personal.*

PA



Angus Diggle's victim complained to the police, alleging that she had been assaulted

How much is an injury worth?

The public feel current levels of damages are too low, says **Andrew Burrows**

A person is rendered paraplegic in a car crash, or loses a hand in an accident at work. If someone else can be shown to be legally responsible for those injuries, the victim is entitled to damages.

The purpose of the damages is to compensate the victim for his or her losses. Damages for financial losses, such as loss of earnings and medical expenses, can, in theory at least, be calculated with mathematical precision.

But the courts also award damages for the victim's non-financial losses: for the pain and suffering and the loss of enjoyment of life. For these "losses" there is no demonstrably right answer to the question "How much should be awarded?" Under the present system this is a matter for the courts to decide.

The judges award what they consider to be fair and reasonable in line with past decisions. A flexible tariff of values has been developed. Until 1992 this scale of values could be gleaned only by trawling through the law reports and specialist books. But since then it has been set out in easily accessible form in *Guidelines for the Assessment of General Damages in Personal Injury*, published by the Judicial Studies Board.

The present scale runs from under £100 for minor cuts and bruises up to about £150,000 for the worst injuries. So, for example, the conventional range for quadriplegia is £120,000 to £150,00; for moderate brain damage it is £40,000 to £65,000; for the complete loss of sight in one eye it is £22,500 to £25,000; and for minor whiplash injuries it is up to £3,500. The range of award for each injury gives the judges the flexibility to award a higher or lower sum depending on the circumstances of the victim.

The Law Commission has been reviewing how much the damages for non-financial loss should be and how they should be fixed. In our final report, published today, we recommend that the present system of assessment by judges should continue. It should not be replaced by a fixed tariff laid down by Parliament. Nor is there good reason to spend money in setting up and running a Compensation Advisory Board to assist the judiciary.

> There is no reason for an advisory board to be set up

On the other hand we consider that for serious injuries, damages for non-financial loss are at present too low. We recommend that they should be increased by between 50 per cent and 100 per cent so that the top of the scale would be at least £225,000 but not more than £300,000. This would bring the scale into line with public opinion as to what is a fair level. This is shown not only by the responses to our consultation paper on this subject, but also by a survey by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The ONS interviewed 3,639 people. They were given four case histories and asked to say how much each injured person should be awarded for his or her non-financial loss. The results, presented in our report, suggest that the majority of the population consider current levels to be too low and should be raised by, at the very least, 50 per cent.

● *Professor Andrew Burrows is a Law Commissioner for England and Wales.*

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THE TIMES

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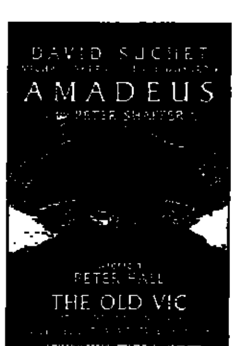
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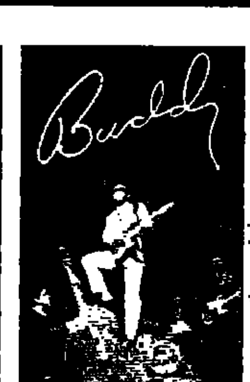












This week *The Times* offers readers the chance to buy two tickets for the price of one for some of the best shows in London. To book call **0870 842 2211**

Amadeus, Old Vic, SE1. Peter Shaffer's wickedly funny play currently starring David Suchet. Offer valid until May 31 Monday-Thursday evenings at 7.30pm and matinees on Wednesday and Saturday at 2.30pm (at 3pm from April 19). Tickets normally £39.50 each.

Blood Brothers, Phoenix Theatre, WC2. Winner of the Olivier Best Musical Production award. Offer valid until June 30 Monday-Friday evenings at 7.45pm and matinees on Thursday at 3pm and Saturday 4pm. Tickets normally £32.50 each.

An Inspector Calls, Garrick Theatre, WC2. Winner of 19 awards, the National Theatre production of J. B. Priestley's thriller stars William Gaunt. Offer valid Monday-Thursday evenings at 7.45pm until May 15. Tickets normally £29.50 each.

The Woman in Black, Fortune Theatre, WC2. Susan Hill's frightening ghost story, now in its tenth year. Offer valid Mon-Thurs evenings at 8pm from May 1-June 30. Tickets normally £23.50 each.



SHAKESPEARE IN LAUGHS: Riotously funny romp through 37 plays

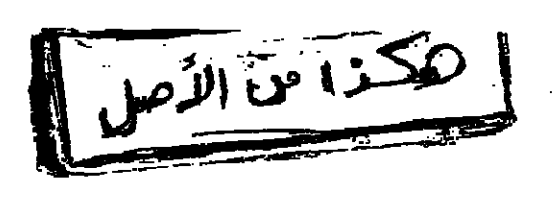
Buddy, Strand Theatre, WC2. Rock'n'roll musical of the Buddy Holly Story. Offer valid Tuesday-Thursday evenings at 8pm, Friday evenings at 8.30pm and Sunday matinees at 4pm until May 31. Tickets normally £27 each (Tues-Thurs and Sun mats) and £30 each Friday evenings.

The Reduced Shakespeare Company, Criterion Theatre, W1. The longest-running comedy in the West End includes all 37 of the Bard's plays. Offer valid for Tuesday-Friday evenings at 8pm and matinees on Thursday at 3pm, Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 4pm until June 30. Tickets normally £25 each.

There is a £2 transaction fee per booking.

THE TIMES **Live** **0870 842 2211**

CHANGING TIMES



Reforms will offer short sharp shock

Henrietta Lake examines how the shake-up in court procedures will affect firms in legal disputes

One of the most fundamental changes to the legal system in the past 100 years is less than a week away. The "big bang" in the courts will take place next Monday when new rules governing the conduct of civil procedure come into force.

The rules have come out of the proposals in Lord Woolf's report on the legal system, known as *Access to Justice*, and will affect all small and medium-sized companies using the courts. The aim is to produce a legal process that is shorter, sharper and less costly to its participants.

Richard Brown, a partner in Thomas Eggar Church Adams, the law firm, explained: "Justice may be rougher, but it will certainly be quicker. The objective is to slim down procedures and give courts teeth to get rid of time-wasters."

Stephen Alambritis, of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), said: "We welcome these changes, which should demolish some of the mystery and legalese surrounding the courts. Small businesses are often caught in the trap of either not being able to afford to contest a dispute and at the same time not being eligible for legal aid. These moves to speed up the process should help."

The main proposals are two new tracks of litigation, a fast track for cases under £15,000 and a multi track for complex cases under this figure or cases over £15,000. Cases will be allocated to one of these tracks depending on their value and complexity. Cases under £5,000 will go to arbitration and be dealt with in a procedure similar to the old small claims court.

For a claim assigned to the fast track, trial should begin within 30 weeks from being issued. In order to cut costs and time, there will be only one expert witness rather than one from each side, and some evidence may be submitted on paper rather than verbally. As well as submitting claims and defences, parties will also be obliged to complete an allocation questionnaire to demonstrate what is likely to be involved in proving their case.

The intention is that cases will proceed in a simpler and more predictable manner than before and that the investment of time and costs should be in proportion to the nature and value of the claim.

There will also be what is referred to as "front loading" of cases as clients and their lawyers will be expected to disclose and share information with the other parties before litigation begins. More preparatory work will have to be done earlier by both clients and lawyers. Parties will be encouraged to resolve their disputes without the need for trial.

One of the biggest changes will be that once proceedings begin, the courts — rather than the plaintiff — will proactively manage the cases, ensuring that they progress swiftly through to, and during, trial.

Sanctions may be applied to parties who fail to comply with the court's timetable.

"It will no longer be an option for a company to say 'we'll slow down or speed up at our convenience'. It will be like a fast-moving conveyor belt, so that once proceedings have been issued, companies will no longer be able to set the pace," said Mr Brown.

A new procedure has been designed for the immediate, summary disposal of weak cases or defences. The court can give judgment there and then without either party being present in order to speed through cases and cut the "chaff".

A new "offer to settle" procedure will provide financial incentives to both sides to settle early. "The demands on litigants as well as their lawyers to meet timetables will be much greater, but with good planning and organisation the new procedures could achieve significant improvements on the present system," Mr Brown said.

Antony Gold, a litigation partner in Eversheds, the law firm, also believes that the changes will work to the advantage of small and medium-sized firms, which will benefit from "a level playing field and helping to arrest the old process where larger firms could stand firm and bully smaller firms into submission, stopping the companies with the deepest pockets winning".

However, some observers are concerned that the changes will herald a new era in which some of the finer points of a case are in danger of being lost and in which the exhaustive examination of issues will end. "It will not be the sort of allembracing justice that people have been used to," said one.

"It will no longer be a case of hiding behind the ramparts, the classic response. As soon as a firm finds itself involved in a dispute, it needs to address the issue immediately and seriously, and then it can work the changes to its advantage. Any company that puts a legal dispute on the back burner will come a cropper."

Details of the reforms can be found on the Internet at the Lord Chancellor's Department website.

The FSB will be launching a video guide to the new tracks and procedures on May 4 entitled *See you in Court*.

Contact: FSB, 01253 336000.

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.open.gov.uk/lcd



Ill-prepared cases are to be put to the sword and others will be weighed more quickly

IN BRIEF

Check out for the millennium bug

■ Auditors are warning small and medium-sized firms that they are not taking enough steps to show that their information technology systems are millennium-compliant and, in the worst cases, risk having their reports and accounts qualified as a result.

The problem stems from the fact that many smaller firms mistakenly believe that the issue of proving their IT systems are fit to cope with the millennium bug is the problem of large corporations only. This is not the case. In order for an auditor to pass the accounts, a company, no matter what its size, needs to be able to demonstrate that its system will not grind to a halt at the new year.

To help smaller firms to combat the bug, Greenwich Mean Time, the software company, has produced a product called Check 2000, which can be downloaded on to a computer and will detect which programs are not millennium-compliant and offer a step-by-step guide on how to fix the problem.

For information, call: 01329 825468 or www.gmt-2000.

■ **A new website for small businesses has been launched by Tolson Messenger, the insurer. It aims to make the process of choosing and buying a suitable insurance policy faster and easier for firms without compromising on advice or service. www.tolsonmessenger.co.uk**

■ One 2 One, the mobile telephone operator is abolishing peak rate calls for businesses. From April 29, customers using its Precept time plans will be charged 5p per minute for national and local calls whatever the time of day. Using similar packages, this compares with 28p for Vodafone, and 23.5p for Orange. For more information call 0500 500121.

■ A survey by Microsoft shows that small businesses are not embracing the Internet quite as the marketing men intended — to increase business and gain competitive advantage. Instead it is being used for the more mundane tasks of e-mailing (95 per cent), information searches (76 per cent), downloading files (60 per cent), reading business news (40 per cent) and transferring files (35 per cent).

MEGAPHONE

Vere Awdry, marketing director of GR Lane Health Products, which makes licensed herbal medicines, says that the Restrictive Practices Court must protect the public and uphold resale price maintenance (RPM) on medicines. The firm, based in Gloucester, employs 100 and has a turnover of £15 million.

"RPM on medicines, which the supermarkets are campaigning to end, exists for a reason, it is there not just to protect community pharmacists but also the public.

"These products are drugs, and, as such, carry with them specific guidelines about suitability and recommended dosage.

"If we start to treat medicinal products in the same as way as we would bars of chocolate — by dispensing with RPM and encouraging price competition — customers may make their selection based on price rather than medical necessity. RPM serves a purpose, and we believe that it plays a vital role in helping to prevent the misuse of medicinal products."



Awdry: "vital role"

☐ *Any company wishing to express a view in Megaphone should contact In Business.*

Chip designer aims to blend work with fun

The head of a £1.4bn company used to rely on leads gleaned in the pub, reports **Matthew Barbour**



SUZANNE HUBBARD

Robin Saxby with products using chips designed by ARM

Aged just 13, Robin Saxby had his best promoter in the form of his father. Returning home from the pub at night, he would tell his son of another friend who had a problem with his television set and hand him the address scrawled on a scrap of paper. Robin would soon cycle round, fix the set and return several shillings better off.

"One year I was even called out in pouring rain on Christmas Day, but, to me, fiddling with electronic gadgets was all I ever wanted to do," he says.

Mr Saxby, an entrant in the Entrepreneur of the Year competition, is now managing director and chairman of ARM Holdings, the fast-growing computer chip design group.

ARM, based in Cambridge, was set up in 1990 with £2.5 million and with Mr Saxby heading a 12-strong team of Acorn research and development engineers. The company is now listed in the FTSE 250 and America's Nasdaq market, and has a market value of £1.4 billion. In eight years its workforce has expanded to 350 and it has year-on-year growth of 59 per cent.

The company's aim, Mr Saxby says, was not to make end-product semiconductor chips, but to license the rights to other producers, and become the global standard for digital chip technology.

Unlike other chip designers, Mr Saxby realised early on that the key to success would be to focus on miniaturisation and efficiency, rather than on high-performance chips. "The semiconductor industry is an extremely volatile one, driven predominantly by capacity, leading to terribly violent cycles," he says. "I just knew that I didn't want to get involved in that side of the market."

Chips designed by ARM are now used in most digital mobile phones produced in the UK, as well as in electronic equipment in cars, such as the Advanced Braking System.

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR®

Among the 130 companies that work with ARM and use its chip technology are Sony, Intel, Philips and Microsoft.

Mr Saxby says that a key factor in ARM's success is combining work with fun, and holding frequent social events. "We regularly crack open the champagne when we have a product launch or a key development and keep a bottle from each event as a memento," he says. ARM also holds social events for employees' families.

"I wanted to create a feeling that we knew each other, and more importantly, that we trusted each other," Mr Saxby adds. "It's only by trusting each other that our business partners could trust us."

All staff are given share options, and ARM designers and engineers receive options and cash when projects on which they have worked reach fruition and are patented. "It's a very flat, open culture, with the people at the centre of everything," Mr Saxby says. "We feed off each other's enthusiasm."

☐ *Application forms for Entrepreneur of the Year are available on 0845 6041012. Entrepreneurs can nominate themselves or be nominated. Applications must be in by April 30.*



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CONTRACT

IN BUSINESS IS EDITED BY HENRIETTA LAKE
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Breaking the four-hour pain barrier

Here, exclusive to *The Times*, are the finishers in the 1999 Flora London Marathon. The information is provided by EDS, official suppliers of computers to the race, and include team results from *The Times* Mini Marathon. Names and times of other finishers will be published later this week.

M Mac Naughtan 3:09:54; Y Turberg 3:09:54; G Thayre 3:09:55; G Reilly 3:09:55; P Howe 3:09:56; E Latto 3:09:56; N Pearce 3:09:57; L Silva 3:09:57; P Foley 3:09:57; M Fink 3:09:58; S Ruane 3:09:59.

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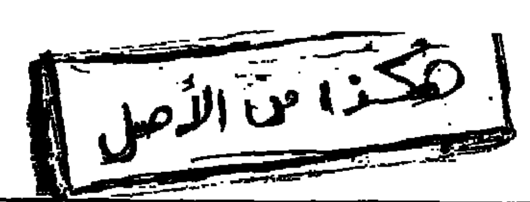
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Intensive care: the blistered feet reveal the effort put in by one London Marathon competitor. Photograph: Marc Aspland



FLORA LONDON MARATHON



Rain dance: a runner in American Indian costume braves a shower during the race on Sunday. Photograph: Ray Little



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More results tomorrow

MINI MARATHON BOROUGH TEAM RESULTS

1—Barnet 1143; 2—Havering 1325; 3—Bexley 1919; 4—Bromley 2150; 5—Enfield 2233; 6—Waltham Forest 2243; 7—Hounslow 2588; 8—*Sutton 2752; 9—Greenwich 3037; 10—Richmond 3069;* 11—Newham 3145; 12—Harrow 3177; 13—Barking & Dagenham 3217; 14—Redbridge 3238; 15—Merton 3362; 16—Camden 3468; 17—Croydon 3434; 18—Lewisham 3718; 19—Haringey 3946; 20—Kingston 4019; 21—Ealing 4265; 22—Kensington & Chelsea 4355; 23—Wandsworth 4807; 24—Hillingdon 5054; 25—Lambeth 5249; 26—Hackney 5593; 27—Islington 5646; 28—Tower Hamlets 5700; 29—Southwark 5931; 30—Hammersmith & Fulham 6022; 31—Brent *6084; 32—City of London 6160; 33—City of Westminster 6564.*

MINI MARATHON CITY TEAM RESULTS

1—Glasgow 373; 2—Manchester 532; 3—Derby 573; 4—Coventry 586; 5—St Albans 754; 6—Newcastle 773; 7—Liverpool 792; 8—Norwich 823; 9—Birmingham 834; 10—Nottingham 856; 11—Edinburgh 870; 12—Bristol 991; 13—Cardiff 1006; 14—Sheffield 1346; 15—Portsmouth 1421.



Campbell, left, celebrates his goal after 40 seconds in the 3-1 victory at St James' Park. Campbell also scored Everton's second. Photograph: Owen Humphreys

Campbell continues to call the shots on home soil

For footballers, the hazards of going abroad to ply their trade are well documented. They face the problem of a new language, which is tricky for those who have yet to master English completely. Then there is the difficulty about the food — wot, no fry-ups? Finally, they undergo the trials and the tribulations of training for more than two hours per day. As Ian Rush said of his unhappy sojourn in Italy: "It's like a foreign country."

Rush, however, never had to deal with racist abuse (however well-intentioned) from officials of his own club. When Kevin Campbell was described as "our black cannibal" by the chairman of Trabzonspor, the Turkish club he had joined in preference to helping Nottingham Forest to battle against relegation, he knew that home was where the heart is, even if it meant being loaned to Everton, another side battling at the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership.

In fact, thanks to the goals of Campbell, our Fantasy Player of the Week, Everton could be in lower mid-table before too long. Campbell's two scores against Newcastle United at St James' Park took Everton to 37 points for the season, level on points with Coventry City. And, as everybody knows, finishing above Coventry means avoiding relegation: if the *Titanic* had been painted sky blue, so they say, she would never have gone down.



Not that Gordon Strachan's team do not like to keep things interesting. Their defeat by Middlesbrough at Highfield Road on Saturday could yet prove significant in Premiership terms, and it was also an important game for the winner of our weekly prize of £500, Daniel Ryan, of Hersham, who works as a retail manager for a well-known supermarket.

Gary McAllister and Dean Gordon, two of the goalscorers from that game, were in Mr Ryan's team, Ryan's Lions 98, bringing in a tidy six points, with Gordon's total boosted by his part in Middlesbrough's goalless draw with Chelsea in midweek, the clean sheet being worth three more. "Middlesbrough are good defensively, which is why I signed him," Mr Ryan said.

Albert Ferrer, of Chelsea, scored four points — three from the Middlesbrough-Chelsea game, with one appearance point for the Chelsea v Leicester City match. He was withdrawn two minutes too early to qualify for two more points for a clean sheet, Chelsea not having conceded a goal at that point.

Nigel Martyn, Dominic Matteo, Gareth Southgate and Paul Scholes scored three each. Add two-point contributions from Frank Lampard and Dean Sturridge, and Ryan's Lions came up with a healthy 29 points. Of Mr Ryan's team, only Nicolas Anelka, of Arsenal, failed to score. Mr Ryan supports . . . Arsenal.

☐ A poor week for the overall leader, Phil Clarke's Shabadi United, who scored only a single point, saw These Eat Beans, selected by Nicholas Keighley, open up a nine-point gap at the top of the leaderboard.

☐ Even if your team missed the weekly winner's prize by a mile, you may still be in the money. With a team total of 3, 6 or 9, based on the player lists (right), you could be in line for this week's ON-Target prize of £500, so follow the instructions below.

☐ For legal reasons, *The Times* Fantasy League is no longer able to accept entries from players under 18 years of age. Players 17 and under already registered in the main and youth leagues will, however, be allowed to remain in the competition.

Sheringham making up for lost time

It was a weekend full of surprises as far as *The Times* Fantasy League was concerned. High-profile players hardly featured and a couple of struggling strikers managed to pick up a few points at last.

Teddy Sheringham, of Manchester United, benefited from his first Premiership start for several months. Although the vast majority of managers who originally picked Sheringham for their fantasy teams lost faith a long time ago, the few that still own him were duly rewarded with a much-needed seven points for a goal and two assists.

Another significant Fantasy League flop, Mark Hughes, also managed to get on to the scoresheet for the first time this season. With just a solitary assist to his name before Saturday, Hughes increased his points tally to five as a result of his goal for Southampton against Blackburn Rovers. However, his points-per-game average over the whole season stands at a meagre 0.18.

Recent additions to the player list were also in the points on Saturday. Kevin Campbell made it 16 points in four games and Graham Stuart scored his second goal for Charlton Athletic in the space of a week. Marian Pahars, Chris Marsden and Scot Gemmill all scored their first goals for their new clubs.

The big-name strikers failed to make any impact. Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole were rested ahead of their vital game in Turin tomorrow, resulting in frustration for a large proportion of Fantasy League managers.

With Michael Owen missing the remainder of the season with a hamstring injury, and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink limping off with a similar injury, all the leading Fantasy League managers have been detrimentally affected, thus giving the chasing pack a chance to catch up — albeit for some slightly too late.

MATT SIMS

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FANTASY LEAGUE LEADERBOARD

1	Nicholas Keighley	These Eat Beans	384
2	Phil Clarke	Shabadi United	375
3	Mike Shipley	Minor Threat	373
4	Robert Little	Broken Arrow	370
5	James Kerr	Serious Squad	369
6	Brian Payne	Cosmopolitan Iii	364
6	Matthew O'Neil	The M Team	364
6	Phil Tusler	Peter 7	364
9	Mike Shipley	Minor Threat 15	363
9	Michael Matejtschuk	Bandidos Darsene	363
11	Mark Coles	Joe Public	362
11	Sarabjot Kohli	Junglemen	362
13	Sarosh Daruwala	Scorch	361
14	David Wise	Walsall Reserves	357
15	David Edmondson	Edmo Utd Mington	356
16	Thomas Bailey	Rural Raiders	355
16	Phil Tusler	Pin-Ups 7	355
18	Terry Bullen	El Tel's Revenge	354
19	David Young	Dave 10	353
20	Darren Sawyer	Finchleyallstars	352
20	Jennifer Cockburn	Yeah Right!	352
22	Jason Wynne	Taffy's Terrors	351
22	Scott Brett	Scott's Stars	351
24	Robin Harrington	Chequers Champs	350
24	Stephen Beales	Croft Rangers	350
24	Tom Summers	Ganichou	350
24	Peter Leathem	Spike Town	350
28	Rod Petrovic	Roddy's Rovers	349
29	Richard Deane	On The Wagon	348
29	L Samuels	Spartak Mossley	348
31	Andrew Colyer	Splitters	347
31	David Tilley	Tilley FC	347
31	David Mead	In The City	347
34	Steven Walls	Team Stevo	346
34	John Humphreys	Academicals	346
34	Jo Tinning-Clowes	The Future's Red	346
34	Jwalant Popat	Popat's Army	346
34	Rajiv Kothari	Milleniumbuggers	346
39	Philip Morton	Skilli Vanili	345
39	Simon Lowe	Janice's Heroes	345
39	Michael Scaife	Allidoiswash&go	345
39	Paul Caton	Euro Stars	345
43	Colin Head	Headstart Gunard	344
43	Raymond George	Razor D	344
43	Allan Purdy	Al's Bandits	344
43	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	344
43	Nathan Carroll	Nath's Champs	344
43	Paul O'Neill	Four Four Two	344
43	H S Sidhu	Harv's Heroes	344
50	Stephen Bailey	Stevie's Wonders	343
50	Justin Beaumont	Beaumont's Braves	343
50	John Miner	Melodymaker	343
50	Tony Fidler	Real Dataman	343
50	George Millington	Survivors 6	343

YOUTH LEAGUE LEADERS

1	Matthew O'Neil	The M Team	364
2	Sarabjot Kohli	Junglemen	362
3	Tom Summers	Ganichou	350
4	Jwalant Popat	Popat's Army	346
5	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	344
6	Stephen Bailey	Stevie's Wonders	343
7	Matthew Watson	Matt's Magic	341
8	Paul Williams	Where Was Gazza	335
9	Henrietta Ball	Henri & Goals UU	333
10	James Griffiths	Griff's Eleven	332

Are you on target to win £500?

Congratulations to Richard Ball, of London SW4, the main winner of ON-Target from last week. Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now — or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. *The Times* has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned Fifa 99 game. Every week you could win:

- 1st prize: £500 plus EA Sports Pack
- 4 runners-up: EA Sports Packs
- 10 additional runners-up: Fifa 99 CD-Rom.

Each EA Sports Pack contains: Fifa 99 for the PlayStation; Fifa 99 for the PC; EA Sports T-Shirt, keyring and mini football plus a record bag.

If you already have a team in the main game, you are ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League players' score each week and see if their total is the same as our ON-Target score. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners' line will put you in the draw to win one of the 15 prizes. You can enter at any time and there is no limit to how many teams you can enter.

HOW TO ENTER: Look up your players' weekly point scores opposite and add them up, or call the checkline 0640 625 102. If your total score for this week matches the ON-Target number(s), then call our claim line on **0870 901 4270** (calls, charged at national rate, should last about a minute). Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday. The lines then close until the next game starts on Tuesday morning.

If you have scored the correct number of points AND called the claim line, you go into the draw. Just look in the paper the following Tuesday to see if you have won.

Managers with the correct points who have *not* called the claim line will not be entered. Calls that are incomplete, inaudible or invalid will not be entered. All teams in the draw must conform to the main game rules.

Last week's winners
Richard Ball, of London SW4 (£500 plus EA Sports Pack); **Colin Hillam**, of Bradford, **Sean Gulrey**, of Alboume, West Sussex, **Mr D Brewood**, of Stockport, **Darren Wallwork**, of Newcastle upon Tyne (EA Sports Packs); **David Hunter**, of Maldon, Essex, **Bob Sutcliffe**, of London N22, **Paul Barnett**, of Surbiton, **Leon Jacob**, of Wincanton, **James Amos**, of Sevenoaks, **Gerald Lechenko**, of Greenford, Middlesex, **Ken Nuttall**, of Stroud, **George Poole**, of London NW1, **John Wood**, of Waltham Abbey, Essex, **Lynne Knight**, of Newcastle upon Tyne (Fifa 99 CD-Roms).

THIS WEEK'S ON-TARGET SCORE

Has your team scored...
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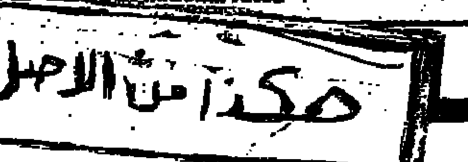
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Columns show: code, name, club, weekly points, total points, valuation (£ million).

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Value
102	D Seaman	ARS	0	43	3.7
146	A Manninger	ARS	0	12	3.4
139	M Bosnich	AST	3	17	3.2
140	M Oakes	AST	0	1	2.9
144	A Rachel	AST	0	-1	2.6
108	J Filan	BLA	-2	-6	2.8
126	A Fettis	BLA	0	6	2.5
127	T Flowers	BLA	0	-3	3.1
104	S Ilic	CHA	0	-11	2.3
105	M Salmon	CHA	0	0	2.2
106	A Petterson	CHA	0	-1	2.2
134	S Royce	CHA	0	10	2.2
137	D Kharine	CHE	0	0	2.9
138	E De Goey	CHE	2	34	3.2
145	K Hitchcock	CHE	0	1	2.6
107	S Ogrizovic	COV	0	-1	2.4
117	M Hedman	COV	-1	-3	2.6
103	R Hoult	DER	-1	-2	2.3
153	M Poom	DER	0	6	2.5
112	P Gerrard	EVE	0	0	2.4
114	S Simonsen	EVE	0	0	2.7
118	T Myhre	EVE	0	17	2.6
113	N Martyn	LEE	3	23	3.1
125	P Robinson	LEE	0	4	2.7
123	K Keller	LEI	-1	9	2.9
124	P Arphexad	LEI	0	1	2.6
122	B Friedel	LIV	0	-1	3.3
131	D James	LIV	3	4	3.3
116	P Schmeichel	MAN	0	14	4.0
121	R Van Der Gouw	MAN	3	7	3.5
109	M Schwarzer	MID	3	20	2.7
110	B Roberts	MID	0	0	2.4
111	M Beresford	MID	0	-3	2.5
141	S Given	NEW	-2	4	3.0
142	L Perez	NEW	0	0	2.7
143	S Harper	NEW	0	2	2.5
119	D Beasant	NOT	0	-24	2.7
120	M Crossley	NOT	0	0	2.6
136	K Pressman	SHE	0	7	2.5
149	M Clarke	SHE	0	0	2.2
150	P Srnicek	SHE	-2	2	2.3
147	N Moss	SOU	-2	-3	2.2
148	P Jones	SOU	0	-6	2.4
128	I Walker	TOT	3	17	2.8
154	H Segers	TOT	0	0	2.4
155	E Baardsen	TOT	0	3	2.6
129	C Forrest	WES	0	0	2.5
130	S Hislop	WES	0	14	2.7
132	N Sullivan	WIM	0	-6	2.5
135	P Heald	WIM	0	0	2.3

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Value
203	R Garde	ARS	0	14	3.5
204	L Dixon	ARS	0	50	4.1
205	N Winterburn	ARS	0	38	4.2
260	D Grondin	ARS	0	3	3.4
261	N Vivas	ARS	0	15	3.7
209	A Wright	AST	3	19	3.7
804	M Delaney	AV	0	0	2.8
211	G Croft	BLA	0	0	3.2
248	C Davidson	BLA	-2	6	3.1
262	J Kenna	BLA	0	-2	3.5
221	C Powell	CHA	0	8	2.7
240	D Mills	CHA	0	16	2.6
241	M Bowen	CHA	0	0	2.7
242	S Brown	CHA	0	8	2.5
243	A Barness	CHA	0	-2	2.5
803	P Konchesky	CHA	0	3	2.5
210	A Ferrer	CHE	4	32	3.7
212	G Le Saux	CHE	2	24	4.0
215	C Babayaro	CHE	0	32	3.5
216	F Sinclair	CHE	-1	10	3.3
217	M Hall	COV	0	0	2.7
219	R Nilsson	COV	0	2	2.9
231	D Burrows	COV	-1	-8	2.9
247	I Brightwell	COV	0	0	2.8
267	M Edworthy	COV	0	-2	2.9
223	S Schnoor	DER	-4	13	2.8
287	S Elliott	DER	0	0	2.6
295	T Dorigo	DER	-2	8	2.8
805	V Borbokis	DER	0	-4	2.8
249	J O'Kane	EVE	0	0	2.9
256	T Thomas	EVE	0	0	2.7
258	M Ball	EVE	0	33	2.8
271	A Cleland	EVE	0	20	2.9
272	T Phelan	EVE	0	0	2.8
286	M Ward	EVE	0	-3	3.0
802	A Farley	EVE	0	-1	2.6
214	D Granville	LEE	0	5	3.5
224	I Harte	LEE	5	45	3.4
225	D Robertson	LEE	0	0	3.3
226	G Kelly	LEE	0	0	3.9
227	L Sharpe	LEE	0	0	3.6
235	R Ullathorne	LEI	-1	12	3.0
237	R Savage	LEI	1	10	3.3
238	S Guppy	LEI	2	41	3.6
228	J McAteer	LIV	0	3	4.2
230	R Jones	LIV	0	0	3.8
232	S Bjornebye	LIV	0	6	3.8
250	V Heggem	LIV	0	13	3.9
236	D Irwin	MAN	0	24	4.3
283	J Curtis	MAN	0	-1	3.5
284	P Neville	MAN	3	15	4.3
285	G Neville	MAN	3	26	4.5
294	W Brown	MAN	3	5	3.6
252	C Fleming	MID	0	9	3.0
253	V Kinder	MID	3	6	3.0
254	C Harrison	MID	0	3	2.8
255	D Gordon	MID	6	34	3.2
259	C Lombardi	MID	0	0	2.8
266	R Stockdale	MID	3	21	2.8
806	S Baker	MID	0	0	2.6
244	N Solano	NEW	-1	27	3.3
246	A Griffin	NEW	-2	-2	3.2
273	S Watson	NEW	3	18	3.4
274	W Barton	NEW	-2	7	3.4
276	L Charvet	NEW	0	6	3.3
280	C Serrant	NEW	0	-1	3.2
281	A Pistone	NEW	0	-3	3.5
298	D Domi	NEW	0	-4	3.3
290	D Lyttle	NOT	0	-5	2.9
291	A Rogers	NOT	0	-7	3.0
292	T Bonalair	NOT	0	-10	3.1
293	M Louis-Jean	NOT	0	-1	2.7
801	S [illegible]	NOT	0	4	2.7
202	E Barrett	SHE	0	-1	2.8
268	A Hinchcliffe	SHE	-2	25	3.2
269	J Cobian	SHE	0	1	2.8
279	I Nolan	SHE	0	0	2.8
289	L Briscoe	SHE	0	5	2.6
239	J Beresford	SOU	0	0	2.8
263	J Dodd	SOU	0	7	2.8
288	P Warner	SOU	0	-4	2.5
297	P Colleter	SOU	-1	1	2.6
251	C Wilson	TOT	0	0	3.0
264	S Carr	TOT	3	28	3.1
265	P Tramezzani	TOT	0	-2	3.2
270	J Edinburgh	TOT	0	6	2.9
296	M Taricco	TOT	3	15	3.3
208	S Potts	WES	0	7	3.0
233	S Lazaridis	WES	0	0	3.2
234	A Impey	WES	-1	12	3.1
299	S Minto	WES	0	10	3.1
275	D Jupp	WIM	0	-2	2.6
277	B Thatcher	WIM	0	-3	2.9
278	A Kimble	WIM	0	1	2.9
282	K Cunningham	WIM	0	0	3.0

CENTRE BACKS

Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Value
305	S Bould	ARS	0	12	3.8
307	T Adams	ARS	0	42	4.4
322	M Keown	ARS	0	55	4.1
337	G Grimandi	ARS	0	8	3.6
347	M Upson	ARS	0	1	3.4
301	U Ehiogu	AST	0	24	3.7
303	G Southgate	AST	3	20	3.6
304	R Scimeca	AST	0	5	3.3
329	G Barry	AST	0	7	3.1
353	S Perez	BLA	0	2	3.3
354	D Peacock	BLA	1	2	3.3
355	S Henchoz	BLA	0	0	3.4
374	M Broomes	BLA	-1	-2	2.8
906	M Taylor	BLA	0	0	2.6
308	R Rufus	CHA	0	-3	2.7
309	E Youds	CHA	0	-4	2.6
356	B Lambourde	CHE	0	6	3.4
365	M Desailly	CHE	2	30	3.8
366	M Duberry	CHE	1	15	3.5
370	A Myers	CHE	0	0	3.3
381	F Leboeuf	CHE	-1	43	4.2
357	G Breen	COV	-1	1	3.0
384	P Williams	COV	-1	5	2.9
387	R Shaw	COV	-1	1	2.8
388	L Daish	COV	0	0	2.8
903	M Konjic	COV	0	-4	2.7
311	J Laursen	DER	-4	5	2.9
312	I Stimac	DER	0	6	3.0
313	R Delap	DER	0	16	2.7
314	H A Carbonari	DER	-4	16	3.1
326	C Dailly	DER	-1	-2	3.0
306	S Bilic	EVE	0	2	3.1
323	D Unsworth	EVE	0	20	3.1
324	D Watson	EVE	0	15	2.9
325	C Tiler	EVE	0	14	3.0
327	C Short	EVE	0	5	2.9
328	M Materazzi	EVE	0	13	3.0
348	R Dunne	EVE	0	13	2.7
904	D Weir	EVE	0	-1	2.8
330	L Radebe	LEE	3	27	3.5
331	M Hiden	LEE	0	14	3.4
332	J Woodgate	LEE	6	21	3.2
380	D Wetherall	LEE	0	8	3.6
398	R Molenaar	LEE	0	20	3.4
334	G Taggart	LEI	0	8	3.2
335	P Kaamark	LEI	0	-4	3.3
336	S Walsh	LEI	0	17	3.3
338	M Elliott	LEI	1	31	3.9
389	S Prior	LEI	-4	10	3.1
302	S Staunton	LIV	0	2	4.1
320	P Babb	LIV	3	5	3.7
375	D Matteo	LIV	3	3	3.6
376	F Kippe	LIV	0	0	3.4
399	B T Kvarme	LIV	0	-1	3.5
902	R Song	LIV	0	-5	3.8
321	H Berg	MAN	0	7	3.9
368	D May	MAN	0	0	3.9
382	J Stam	MAN	1	20	4.5
383	R Johnsen	MAN	0	20	4.1
339	G Pallister	MID	3	16	3.2
343	G Festa	MID	3	23	3.1
344	S Vickers	MID	0	9	3.0
340	S Pearce	NEW	0	3	3.2
341	S Howey	NEW	0	1	3.3
342	N Dabizas	NEW	0	6	3.4
345	A Hughes	NEW	-2	-5	3.0
361	P Albert	NEW	0	4	3.5
908	D Beharall	NEW	-2	-2	2.7
349	C Edwards	NOT	0	-3	2.6
350	C Cooper	NOT	3	20	3.2
351	S Chettle	NOT	0	-15	3.0
352	J O Hjelde	NOT	0	-15	2.9
371	J Mattsson	NOT	0	-9	2.8
901	C Doig	NOT	0	-3	2.6
905	R Gough	NOT	0	2	2.7
358	P Atherton	SHE	-2	14	2.9
360	D Walker	SHE	-2	11	2.8
362	D Stefanovic	SHE	0	2	2.7
364	J Newsome	SHE	0	-1	2.8
317	K Monkou	SOU	0	1	2.7
385	F Benali	SOU	-2	-9	2.7
386	R Dryden	SOU	0	3	2.5
391	C Lundekvam	SOU	-2	-4	2.6
394	S Marshall	SOU	0	-5	2.7
395	S Hiley	SOU	-2	-9	2.5
397	G Monk	SOU	0	-6	2.5
346	C Calderwood	TOT	3	19	3.1
373	J Scales	TOT	0	6	3.0
377	L Young	TOT	3	7	2.7
378	S Campbell	TOT	3	37	3.3
396	R Vega	TOT	0	15	3.4
907	R Nilsen	TOT	0	0	2.7
316	J Dicks	WES	0	3	3.3
319	I Pearce	WES	0	21	3.1
367	J Margas	WES	0	-6	3.2
369	N Ruddock	WES	3	18	3.0
393	R Ferdinand	WES	0	16	3.2
372	C Perry	WIM	0	-3	3.1
390	B McAllister	WIM	0	0	2.8
392	D Blackwell	WIM	0	-4	2.9

MIDFIELDERS

Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Value
405	E Petit	ARS	0	10	4.4
406	M Overmars	ARS	0	30	5.6
416	R Parlour	ARS	0	25	4.0
420	P Vieira	ARS	0	5	4.1
424	F Ljungberg	ARS	0	3	5.5
425	S Hughes	ARS	0	7	3.5
407	M Draper	AST	0	3	3.7
409	S Grayson	AST	0	0	3.3
410	A Thompson	AST	0	9	4.5
411	F Ferraresi	AST	0	0	2.6
413	L Hendrie	AST	0	19	3.7
535	I Taylor	AST	3	18	3.6
415	B McKinlay	BLA	0	0	3.3
417	J Wilcox	BLA	5	14	4.0
419	D Duff	BLA	0	4	4.2
421	J Corbett	BLA	0	0	2.3
422	T Sherwood	BLA	0	17	4.1
423	D Johnson	BLA	0	9	3.1
426	O Konde	BLA	0	0	3.3
427	D Marcolin	BLA	0	3	3.6
428	D Dunn	BLA	0	7	3.1
575	G Flitcroft	BLA	0	10	3.3
499	S Parker	CHA	0	2	3.0
501	K Jones	CHA	0	5	3.1
502	M Kinsella	CHA	0	8	3.5
504	M Holmes	CHA	0	0	3.2
505	S Newton	CHA	0	2	3.3
506	J Robinson	CHA	0	7	3.2
507	N Redfearn	CHA	0	8	4.1
508	P Mortimer	CHA	0	5	3.4
401	M Nicholls	CHE	0	0	3.3
404	P Hughes	CHE	0	0	3.1
429	J Morris	CHE	0	7	3.2
430	R Di Matteo	CHE	4	18	4.4
433	B Goldbaek	CHE	0	16	3.9
434	D Petrescu	CHE	3	17	4.3
435	E Newton	CHE	0	0	3.1
437	G Poyet	CHE	0	28	4.9
439	D Wise	CHE	0	6	3.9
465	G McAllister	COV	3	13	3.9
584	L Delorge	COV	0	0	3.5
588	B Quinn	COV	0	2	3.2
589	P Hall	COV	0	0	3.8
590	P Telfer	COV	0	7	3.5
591	N Whelan	COV	0	29	4.4
592	T E Soltvedt	COV	0	12	3.4
593	W Boland	COV	0	0	3.0
594	G Boateng	COV	0	18	3.3
595	P Clement	COV	0	2	3.5
596	G Strachan	COV	0	0	3.1
598	S Shilton	COV	0	0	3.0
599	S Froggatt	COV	0	17	3.7
440	D Powell	DER	0	4	3.2
442	S Eranio	DER	0	2	3.8
443	L Carsley	DER	0	5	3.1
444	F Baiano	DER	0	14	5.2
445	K Harper	DER	0	5	3.7
479	L Bohinen	DER	0	6	3.6
403	G Farrelly	EVE	0	0	3.2
414	T Grant	EVE	0	0	3.1
418	D Williamson	EVE	0	0	3.2
447	J Oster	EVE	0	0	3.4
448	N Barmby	EVE	0	15	4.8
449	O Dacourt	EVE	0	6	3.8
450	J Collins	EVE	0	3	4.6
570	D Hutchison	EVE	2	19	4.0
457	M Jones	LEE	0	0	3.0
458	W Korsten	LEE	0	6	3.5
459	H Kewell	LEE	0	36	4.4
466	L Bowyer	LEE	0	23	3.9
480	A I Haaland	LEE	0	2	3.6
481	B Ribeiro	LEE	0	3	3.8
482	G Halle	LEE	0	6	3.3
522	D Hopkin	LEE	0	19	3.7
532	S McPhail	LEE	0	4	3.1
452	N Lennon	LEI	0	7	3.5
453	S Campbell	LEI	0	0	3.1
454	G Parker	LEI	0	0	3.6
460	M Izzet	LEI	0	13	3.8
565	T Zagorakis	LEI	0	7	3.4
412	J Carragher	LIV	0	8	3.3
467	J Redknapp	LIV	0	25	4.2
468	S McManaman	LIV	0	14	5.5
469	P Berger	LIV	0	25	4.4
470	D Thompson	LIV	0	3	3.2
472	S Gerrard	LIV	0	0	3.1
475	J M Ferri	LIV	0	0	3.9
487	D Murphy	LIV	0	0	3.7
490	P Ince	LIV	0	19	4.5
529	O Leonhardsen	LIV	0	0	4.3
483	J Blomqvist	MAN	0	8	5.0
484	N Butt	MAN	0	14	4.1
485	R Giggs	MAN	0	17	5.8
486	P Scholes	MAN	3	34	5.5
491	J Cruyff	MAN	0	8	3.8
492	D Beckham	MAN	0	35	5.9
509	R Keane	MAN	0	6	[illegible]
510	N Maddison	MID	0	0	3.1
511	A Townsend	MID	0	9	3.6
512	R Mustoe	MID	0	11	3.4
514	P Gascoigne	MID	0	15	4.5
515	P Merson	MID	0	19	4.7
516	A Moore	MID	0	0	3.5
517	P Stamp	MID	0	8	3.4
533	M Summerbell	MID	0	0	3.0
566	K O'Neill	MID	0	2	3.9
461	G Georgiadis	NEW	0	0	3.9
462	D Batty	NEW	0	0	3.7
463	S Glass	NEW	0	17	3.5
464	G Speed	NEW	0	12	4.3
473	J Barnes	NEW	0	0	3.6
477	J McClen	NEW	0	0	3.0
478	S Maric	NEW	0	2	4.4
488	P Dalglish	NEW	0	3	3.8
489	K Gillespie	NEW	0	7	4.3
493	G Brady	NEW	0	0	3.3
494	D Hamilton	NEW	0	0	3.3
495	T Ketsbaia	NEW	0	25	3.8
496	R Lee	NEW	0	4	4.2
497	D Hamann	NEW	0	11	3.9
518	N Quashie	NOT	0	2	3.8
519	G Hodges	NOT	0	0	3.3
520	C Bart-Williams	NOT	0	5	3.6
521	S Gemmill	NOT	3	5	3.5
524	G Thomas	NOT	0	0	3.5
525	A Johnson	NOT	0	6	3.7
526	S Stone	NOT	0	9	4.0
527	I Woan	NOT	0	0	3.8
530	A Gray	NOT	0	0	3.4
545	H Porfirio	NOT	0	0	3.6
550	J Harkes	NOT	0	0	3.1
537	N Alexandersson	SHE	0	17	3.5
538	P Rudi	SHE	0	20	3.6
539	G Whittingham	SHE	0	0	3.7
546	S Oakes	SHE	0	0	3.0
547	W Jonk	SHE	0	14	4.3
548	J Magilton	SHE	0	0	3.1
549	D Sonner	SHE	0	8	3.2
562	B Carbone	SHE	0	36	4.7
597	E Thome	SHE	0	7	3.2
500	S Ripley	SOU	0	2	3.9
536	C Palmer	SOU	0	2	3.2
541	D Howells	SOU	0	3	3.7
542	M Le Tissier	SOU	0	27	6.0
543	W Bridge	SOU	0	0	3.0
544	K Gibbens	SOU	0	0	3.0
556	C Marsden	SOU	3	3	3.3
557	M Oakley	SOU	0	12	3.1
558	D Hughes	SOU	0	0	3.1
498	D Ginola	TOT	0	18	4.8
503	R Fox	TOT	0	8	4.1
523	A Sinton	TOT	0	0	3.4
551	S Clemence	TOT	0	0	3.2
552	S Freund	TOT	0	0	3.9
553	A Nielsen	TOT	0	13	3.7
554	J Dominguez	TOT	0	5	3.5
555	D Anderton	TOT	0	24	4.6
568	M Sale	TOT	0	0	3.6
436	J Moncur	WES	0	0	3.4
561	E Berkovic	WES	3	23	4.8
573	M V Foe	WES	0	2	3.6
574	J Cole	WES	0	0	3.5
576	T Sinclair	WES	7	21	5.1
577	S Lomas	WES	2	7	3.3
578	F Lampard	WES	2	24	3.7
579	M Keller	WES	0	11	3.9
471	M Kennedy	WIM	0	2	3.8
559	R Earle	WIM	0	14	4.1
560	A Roberts	WIM	0	8	3.3
563	N Ardley	WIM	0	2	3.4
580	M Hughes	WIM	0	13	3.5
585	C Ainsworth	WIM	0	2	3.8
586	C Hughes	WIM	0	0	3.3
587	P Fear	WIM	0	0	3.0

FORWARDS

Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Value
601	L Boa Morte	ARS	0	0	5.4
602	N Anelka	ARS	0	47	8.0
606	D Bergkamp	ARS	0	53	9.1
617	N Kanu	ARS	0	5	7.7
623	C Wreh	ARS	0	0	5.8
624	K Diawara	ARS	0	0	6.4
645	D Yorke	AST	0	74	8.3
646	J Joachim	AST	2	39	6.2
651	D Vassell	AST	0	0	5.4
652	S Collymore	AST	0	7	8.0
647	C Sutton	BLA	0	15	8.4
648	N Blake	BLA	0	9	6.7
691	M [illegible]	BLA	0	4	6.4
692	A Ward	BLA	3	17	6.9
693	K Gallacher	BLA	2	11	7.5
695	M Jansen	BLA	0	11	8.4
698	K Davies	BLA	0	7	7.4
604	C Mendonca	CHA	0	14	6.5
605	M Bright	CHA	0	3	5.8
607	S Jones	CHA	0	5	5.0
608	A Hunt	CHA	2	24	5.5
616	M Pringle	CHA	0	9	5.2
709	G Stuart	CHA	3	6	6.0
636	P Casiraghi	CHE	0	5	7.6
637	T A Flo	CHE	0	38	7.2
639	G Vialli	CHE	0	4	6.6
642	M Forssell	CHE	0	3	5.9
679	G Zola	CHE	3	43	7.4
680	D Huckerby	COV	0	31	7.2
683	D Dublin	COV	0	51	7.9
686	J Aloisi	COV	2	18	6.4
612	D Sturridge	DER	2	26	6.6
625	D Burton	DER	0	27	5.3
694	P Wanchope	DER	3	40	6.8
696	M Christie	DER	0	0	5.0
628	D Cadamarteri	EVE	0	16	5.3
631	K Campbell	EVE	6	16	6.3
675	I Bakayoko	EVE	0	12	6.7
677	F Jeffers	EVE	2	15	5.1
689	M Branch	EVE	0	0	5.2
702	D Ferguson	EVE	0	18	7.5
661	C Wijnhard	LEE	0	10	6.8
662	J F Hasselbaink	LEE	0	66	8.1
671	A Smith	LEE	0	24	5.1
621	S Wilson	LEI	0	0	5.0
622	E Heskey	LEI	0	21	6.8
626	T Cottee	LEI	0	23	5.4
656	A Gunnlaugsson	LEI	0	0	6.1
657	I Marshall	LEI	0	0	5.7
669	G Fenton	LEI	0	0	5.2
618	K Riedle	LIV	0	17	7.7
619	S Dundee	LIV	0	0	7.0
620	R Fowler	LIV	0	54	9.4
690	M Owen	LIV	0	51	10.5
640	O G Solskjaer	MAN	5	38	8.1
641	A Cole	MAN	0	55	8.7
649	T Sheringham	MAN	7	7	7.5
609	B Deane	MID	0	22	6.5
611	H Ricard	MID	0	48	6.6
613	M Beck	MID	0	20	6.2
615	A Armstrong	MID	2	2	6.0
653	A Campbell	MID	0	0	5.1
667	A Andersson	NEW	0	3	6.7
670	A Shearer	NEW	3	39	10.1
676	L Saha	NEW	0	7	6.2
627	M Harewood	NOT	0	5	5.1
629	N Shipperley	NOT	0	7	6.5
630	P Van Hooijdonk	NOT	0	26	7.8
634	J C Darcheville	NOT	0	5	6.1
635	D Freedman	NOT	0	30	6.3
655	R Cresswell	SHE	0	0	5.8
659	R Humphreys	SHE	0	3	5.3
660	A Quinn	SHE	0	0	5.0
663	F Sanetti	SHE	0	0	5.9
664	A Booth	SHE	0	24	6.5
666	P Di Canio	SHE	5	19	7.1
708	M Pahars	SOU	3	3	6.1
638	M Hughes	SOU	3	5	6.5
685	D Hirst	SOU	0	0	6.1
703	E Ostenstad	SOU	0	26	6.9
704	J Beattie	SOU	4	19	5.2
706	S Basham	SOU	0	3	5.0
707	H Kachloul	SOU	0	15	5.1
650	C Armstrong	TOT	0	25	7.1
658	L Ferdinand	TOT	0	11	8.1
687	S Iversen	TOT	3	20	6.4
688	R Allen	TOT	0	0	5.2
603	I Wright	WES	3	27	7.8
614	J Hartson	WES	0	22	8.2
643	S Abou	WES	0	0	5.6
644	P Kitson	WES	0	15	6.3
672	C Leaburn	WIM	0	8	5.5
681	J Euell	WIM	0	34	5.4
700	M Gayle	WIM	0	48	5.8
701	E Ekoku	WIM	0	12	6.0
705	C Cort	WIM	0	6	5.3

RUGBY UNION

Andrew's injury puts Wilkinson in pivotal role

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

CLIVE WOODWARD is not a man to wish misfortune on anyone, but the England coach is certain to have the chance to see Jonny Wilkinson playing fly half during the last month of the domestic season. The dislocated shoulder suffered by Rob Andrew during Newcastle's controversial defeat by Wasps on Sunday means that Wilkinson must move from the centre for the club's remaining games, among them the Tetley's Bitter Cup final at Twickenham on May 15.

Woodward has steered clear of fielding Wilkinson in the position where he made his name as a schoolboy, partly because he had no firm evidence of his ability to manage a game at first-class level. In any case, it suited him to play Wilkinson in the centre throughout the Five Nations Championship after injury deprived England of the services of Will Greenwood, Phil de Glanville and, finally, Jeremy Guscott.

Now, however, Newcastle have five Premiership games and a cup final to play without Andrew, who will have a scan today on his damaged shoulder. The first of those is against Richmond at Kingston Park tomorrow, for which Wilkinson, assuming that he recovers from a twisted ankle, will not only wear the No 10 jersey, as he has all season for his club, but will play fly half, too. Andrew has been wearing No 12 but playing in the position in which he won all but one of his 71 England caps.

"Some good comes out of this because it will give Jonny a good opportunity to have some experience there, in some tough games with the pressure on," Steve Bates, the Newcastle coach, said yesterday. "It could be the ideal situation for Jonny to show what he can do. I'm desperately disappointed for Rob, but I don't think we have seen the last of him."

Newcastle cannot afford to lose any more games if they are to ensure a top-six finish and qualify for Europe next season, which could be worth more than £500,000 to the participants, but Woodward will be looking ahead to England's summer visit to Australia and the centennial international in Sydney, as well as the friendly matches with Canada and the United States in August. These are games in which, if change is to be made before the World Cup, Wilkinson could be thrown the England No 10 shirt too.

Andrew, who has dislocated the left shoulder before, was at work yesterday and is certain to register himself as a Newcastle player for next season, in view of Wilkinson's certain absence with England for the first three months. He will be disappointed to miss another significant Twickenham occasion next month, but, even at 36, he is not a man to allow injury to terminate his playing career before he is ready.

Cardiff are preparing a bid for Chris Wyatt, the Llanelli lock, who was one of the outstanding performers for Wales during the Five Nations Championship. Wyatt will be out of contract in July and Cardiff are likely to offer a greater salary than Llanelli can afford. Since they expect to lose Derwyn Jones to a French club and Steve Moore is suffering from a long-term injury, they also need to bolster the second-row department.

"We have started negotiations with Chris's agent with a view to keeping him at Llanelli," Stuart Gallacher, the Llanelli chairman, said. "As yet, we have not had any financial approach, but we are aware that a number of clubs, including Cardiff, are very interested in Chris and one or two other Llanelli players."



Wilkinson, left, replaces Andrew, centre, as Newcastle fly half



Becker provides a picture of concentration on his way to a first-round victory over Pioline in Monaco yesterday

Becker treads warily on clay

TENNIS

By Alix Ramsay
Tennis Correspondent
in Monte Carlo

THIS is where it all starts — officially, at least. The European clay-court season has been up running for a couple of weeks now, but tradition states that this is where the hard work begins for the run into Roland Garros and the French Open. And as places go, the Monte Carlo Country Club is not bad. The remarkably blue sky is broken only by the whirr of a helicopter bringing the overtaxed and the overstressed to their haven by the Mediterranean.

Boris Becker has known about the delights of Monaco for many a year — he has owned a home here since he was a teenager — though the club's clay courts are still something of a challenge. Becker has yet to win a title on the slow red dirt and, in 12 years of trying here, he has reached the final only three times. This is his thirteenth attempt and, after his first-round victory against Cedric Pioline yesterday, he was feeling lucky.

"I am probably the best player never to have won a clay-court tournament — for the moment," he said after his 2½-hour struggle. The prospect of victory, however, is still a long way off. Yesterday, he had chances to win in the second set and chances to lose in third, but eventually came through, as he always does against Pioline, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

Poor old Pioline. He has not beaten Becker in nine attempts and yesterday was only the first time he had even taken a set from him. As his hopes of victory disappeared, so did his No 1 status in France as Jérôme Golmard, who had a simple 6-1, 6-2 win over Davide Sanguinetti, took the top spot. Golmard plays Becker in the second round.

Not that Golmard got it all his own way yesterday. Together with Arnaud Clement, he lost his opening doubles to Tim Henman and Olivier Delaître. Henman and Greg Rusedski both spent the day familiarising themselves with the difficulties of a surface that requires patience, thought and a good deal of nerve before heading for the net. The problem for both men lies in the swarms of Spanish-speaking young men who had all perfected their top spin forehand before they could say "hola" and tend to wear their more cavalier opponents down from the baseline.

Henman will see how far his patience will stretch today when he opens his account against Fernando Meligeni, of Brazil, who defeated Andrew Ilie, of Australia, 6-4, 5-7, 6-2. Should Henman succeed, perhaps he could pass on the secret to Goran Ivanisevic, who turned in one of his most abysmal performances — racket throwing and all — as he lost 6-1, 6-4 to Hicham Arazi.




LINKS

WEBSITE: www.mcopen.org - news, interviews and results
TELEVISION:
Eurosport, 9.30am-5pm (Live)

SPORT IN BRIEF

World Cup benefits from £1.5m boost

■ RUGBY LEAGUE: The 16-nation 2000 World Cup in the four home countries and France received a £1.5 million boost yesterday in a record event sponsorship agreement with the Lincoln Financial Group, which sponsors the Great Britain team. Most of the 31 games are expected to be televised live in a probable combined bid for broadcasting rights by the BBC and BSkyB.

■ SQUASH: Cassandra Jackman, of England, was beaten 9-5, 9-3, 10-9 in 43 minutes by Michelle Martin, the defending champion and world No 1, in the semi-finals of the WISPA World Grand Prix play-offs in Hurghada, Egypt. Martin meets Carol Owens, a fellow Australian, in the final, which could see her capture a fiftieth world tour title.

■ BOWLS: David Constant, the Test cricket umpire, helped Bristol's indoor bowlers (of the underarm kind) to reach the final of the Wessex League on Saturday, but was unable to turn out in the final at Donyatt on Sunday because he was officiating in a one-day cricket match at Lord's. Bristol beat Moonfleet 91-63 to lift the title for the fourth time.

■ BOXING: The new Mandalay Bay hotel in Las Vegas has offered $10 million to stage the world heavyweight championship rematch between Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield, Panos Eliades, Lewis's promoter, said yesterday.

■ ROWING: Steven Redgrave, the four-time Olympic champion, will fulfil one of his ambitions when he competes in the first Supersprint Regatta, to be held in London's Docklands on September 11.

Law Report April 20 1999

Queen's Bench Division

'Publisher' on the Internet

Godfrey v Demon Internet Ltd

Before Mr Justice Morland

[Judgment March 26]

Where an Internet service provider (ISP) which had received and stored a posting on its news server, transmitted that posting to its subscribers who wished to download it, the ISP was a publisher of the posting at common law, but not for the purposes of section 1(2), and (3) of the Defamation Act 1996.

Mr Justice Morland so held in the Queen's Bench Division in a reserved judgment when allowing an application by way of summons by Mr Laurence Godfrey to strike out part of the defence of Demon Internet Ltd as disclosing no sustainable defence to a libel action against them by the plaintiff alleging that they had published a posting defamatory of the plaintiff via the internet usernet system on the news server of their ISP.

Section 1 of the 1996 Act provides: "(1) In defamation proceedings a person has a defence if he shows that - (a) he was not the author, editor or publisher of the statement complained of, (b) he took reasonable care in relation to its publication, and (c) he did not know, and had no reason to believe, that what he did caused or contributed to the publication of a defamatory statement.

"(2) For this purpose ... 'publisher' means a commercial publisher, that is, a person whose business is issuing material to the public, or a section of the public, who issues material containing the statement in the course of that business.

"(3) A person shall not be considered the author, editor or publisher of a statement if he is only involved - (a) in printing, producing, distributing or selling printed material containing the statement ... (c) in processing, making copies of, distributing or selling any electronic medium in or on which the statement is recorded, or in operating or providing any equipment, system or service by means of which the statement is retrieved, copied, distributed or made available in electronic form ... (e) as the operator of or provider of access to a communications system by means of which the statement is transmitted, or made available, by a person over whom he has no effective control.

"In a case not within paragraphs (a) to (e) the court may have regard to those provisions by way of analogy in deciding whether a person is to be considered the author, editor or publisher of a statement."

Section 17 provides:

"(1) In this Act - 'publication' and 'publish', in relation to a statement, have the meaning they have for the purposes of the law of defamation generally, but 'publisher' is specially defined for the purposes of section 1..."

Mr Justin Rushbrooke for Mr Godfrey; Mr Manuel Barca for Demon Internet.

MR JUSTICE MORLAND said that the defendants were an internet service provider. Via the Internet, a worldwide computer network, a person who subscribed to an ISP could submit an article known as a posting to the news server based at his ISP which would disseminate the posting via the Internet, and it would ultimately reach the news servers of other ISPs around the world, such as that of the defendants.

Internet users could access and read the posting by connecting to their local ISP's news servers and requesting it. The ISP would then transmit the posting to the user who could download it on to his computer.

A posting defamatory of the plaintiff made by an unknown person which was posted on an American ISP, eventually reached and was stored by the ISP of the defendants.

The plaintiff informed the defendants that the posting was defamatory and asked them to removed it immediately from the defendant's news server.

His Lordship said that at common law, the defendants, whenever they transmitted and whenever there was transmitted from the storage of their news server a defamatory posting, published that posting to any subscriber to their ISP who accessed the newsgroup containing that posting and saw it.

The situation was analogous to that of the bookseller who sold a book defamatory of the plaintiff.

The defendants' argument that they played a passive role and were merely the owners of an electronic device through which postings were transmitted could not be accepted.

The defendants chose to receive and store the news group containing the posting which could be accessed by subscribers, and could obliterate it, as they later did.

His Lordship said that the defendants were clearly not commercial publishers of the posting for the purposes of section 1(2) and 1(3) of the 1996 Act and were therefore able to satisfy the requirement of section 1(1)(a), the first part of the defence under section 1 of the 1996 Act.

However, after the posting was published at common law, as from the date that the defendants became aware of the defamatory content of it, they could not satisfy the additional requirements of section 1(1)(b) and (c) and could not therefore avail themselves of the protection provided by section 1 of the 1996 Act.

Accordingly the plaintiff's summons would succeed.

Solicitors: Bindman & Partners; Olswang.

No duty to house violent asylum-seeker

Regina v Kensington and Chelsea London Borough Council, Ex parte Kujtim

Before Mr Justice Scott Baker

[Judgment March 31]

Where a destitute asylum seeker had been evicted from two lodgings by different accommodation managers because of his behaviour, a local council was under no mandatory obligation to meet his continuing need for accommodation under section 21(1) of the National Assistance Act 1948.

A discretionary power existed under section 47(1) of the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990, and in reaching any decision the local council was entitled to take into account evidence of those evictions.

Mr Justice Scott Baker so held in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application for judicial review of the refusal by Kensington and Chelsea London Borough Council, by letter of January 13, 1999, further to accommodate Mr Muriqi Kujtim.

Mr Kujtim, a Kosovan Albanian asylum seeker, had been evicted from his first lodgings on account of his violent behaviour towards staff, a threat to kill the management and failure to abide by the rules and regulations of the house. He was told that he would be given one last chance. However, his behaviour at his second lodgings again led to his eviction.

The council interviewed Mr Kujtim, when he was given an opportunity to comment on his eviction. Thereafter, the council concluded that the management's decision was justified, and that it did not have an open ended duty to continue providing accommodation.

Miss Elisabeth Appleby, QC and Mr Stephen Knafler for Mr Kujtim; Mr Ashley Underwood and Ms Rowena Champion for Kensington and Chelsea.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT BAKER said that section 21 of the 1948 Act was one of a species of provisions, in fact, the safety net provision, that was triggered by section 47 of the 1990 Act in relation to an individual.

If a local authority decided that an individual's needs called for the provision of services, residential accommodation was one of the services that could be provided.

In cases such as the present it was necessary to begin by looking at section 47 of the 1990 Act and not section 21 of the 1948 Act. A local authority had a discretion under section 47(1) of the 1990 Act to decline to meet a need that it had assessed.

The local authority had provided accommodation on more than one occasion, and in most circumstances it would be difficult to see how the discretion could properly be exercised against providing accommodation for a destitute asylum seeker. But, in his Lordship's judgment, there was not a mandatory obligation to provide accommodation whatever the circumstances.

As to whether there was a need for reassessment, the council had originally assessed Mr Kujtim's needs, and decided that his needs called for the provision of accommodation, which was arranged through the vehicle of section 21 of the 1948 Act.

The accommodation provided ceased to exist not because of any act on the part of the council but because the owners, first of Bishop's Lodge and then Abercorn House, had evicted him. It was in those circumstances that Mr Kujtim returned to the council for further accommodation.

The council was entitled to take into account the history of what had happened and decline to arrange further accommodation. The authority did not have to keep assessing his needs over and over again and meeting them.

It was quite impracticable to impose in every case an obligation on the local authority to investigate issues between someone for whom it had arranged accommodation and hotel management. Provided the local authority acted reasonably in all the circumstances apparent to it, that would be sufficient.

One had great sympathy for a Kosovan refugee in the circumstances described by Mr Kujtim but his Lordship could not conclude that the decision to refuse to provide accommodation for him was unlawful.

The council was entitled to conclude that he had brought the accommodation problem on his own head and that it was not obliged to continue to accommodate him.

If he was entitled to asylum then from his point of view and from the viewpoint of common humanity the sooner that was resolved by the secretary of state the better.

Solicitors: Peter Kandler & Co, North Kensington; Mr Alun Phillips, Kensington.

● *English jurisdiction Law Reports in* The Times *are compiled by reporters of the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales, 3 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London, WC2A 3XN, publishers of* The Law Reports *and* The Weekly Law Reports *(Tel 0171 242 6471;* http://www.lawreports.co.uk*).*

House of Lords

Chinese walls insufficient

Bolkiah v KPMG (a Firm)

Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Clyde, Lord Hutton and Lord Millett

[Reasons December 18]

A solicitor owed a strict and unqualified duty to a former client not to disclose or misuse confidential information which had been obtained in the course of a fiduciary relationship and not to expose the client to any avoidable risk that the information might unwittingly or inadvertently be communicated to another client with an opposing interest.

Therefore, when a firm of accountants had provided litigation support services to a former client, the firm had to be treated in the same way as a solicitor in respect of information which was confidential.

The erection of ad hoc "chinese walls" within a single department of a firm so as to prevent the flow of information between groups of employees was not an adequate means of ensuring that client confidentiality was maintained.

The House of Lords so held when giving reasons for having allowing on November 18 an appeal by the plaintiff, Prince Jefri Bolkiah, from a decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Otton, Lord Justice Waller dissenting) (*The Times* October 22, 1998) allowing an appeal by the defendants KPMG, a firm, from an order of Mr Justice Pumfrey (*The Times* September 25, 1998) granting the plaintiff's application for an injunction restraining the defendants from carrying out an investigation for the Brunei Investment Agency (BIA) or any other agency of the Government of Brunei.

Mr Gordon Pollock, QC, Mr Richard Meade and Mr James Collins for Prince Jefri; Mr David Donaldson, QC, Mr Ali Malek, QC and Mr David Quest for KPMG.

LORD MILLETT said that the question was whether, and if so in what circumstances, a firm of accountants which had provided litigation support services to a former client and in consequence had in its possession information which was confidential to him, could undertake work for another client with an adverse interest.

The question had become of increased importance with the emergence of international firms that operated on a global scale and offered a comprehensive range or services.

KPMG were a large and well known English firm of chartered accountants with associated but separate firms around the world.

Ever since the BIA was established in 1983 to hold and manage the general reserve fund of the Brunei Government and its external assets and to provide the government with money management services, KPMG had undertaken the annual audit of its core funds, the exact size of which was secret but was valued at billions of dollars.

Prince Jefri, a former Minister of Finance, was the youngest brother of the Sultan of Brunei and for many years had been chairman of the BIA. He was, however, no longer in favour with the Sultan and had been removed from his position as chairman.

Over the years, numerous large transfers of capital were made out of the core funds. The destination of those special transfers did not form part of KPMG's audit.

KPMG were required to accept an annual representation from the board, of which Prince Jefri was chairman, that the transfers were on behalf of or for the benefit of the Brunei Government.

For 18 months between 1996 and 1998 KPMG were also retained by one of Prince Jefri's companies on his behalf to undertake a substantial investigation in connection with major litigation in which he was involved.

The investigation was given the code name *Project Lucy* and was mainly conducted by KPMG's London forensic accounting department which provided extensive litigation support services and performed tasks usually undertaken by solicitors such as interviewing witnesses, taking part in conferences, drafting subpoenas, reviewing pleadings and preparing ideas for cross-examination.

They were given a substantial volume of confidential information concerning the identity, location and legal structure of Prince Jefri's assets and financial affairs.

The litigation was settled in March 1998 and KPMG were formally instructed to discontinue Project Lucy in May 1998. In June 1998 the Brunei Government appointed a task force to investigate the BIA's activities.

In July 1998 KPMG were formally instructed by the BIA to assist the task force in investigating the withdrawal of assets by means of the special transfers. That assignment was given the code name Project Gemma.

KPMG than gave its staff instructions that an information barrier, popularly know as a "chinese wall", should be put in place within the forensic accounting department and special arrangements were established to protect the confidentiality of information in KPMG's possession which related to Prince Jefri.

No one who was in possession of information from Project Lucy was selected to work on project Gemma and arrangements were made to for the work to be done in a secure office in a different building.

The issues raised had not previously been considered by the House of Lords. The controlling authority in England hitherto had been Court of Appeal decision in *Rakusen v Ellis Munday and Clarke* ([1912] 1 Ch 831) which was authority for the propositions:

1 There was no absolute rule of law in England that a solicitor could not act in litigation against a former client and

2 The solicitor might be restrained from acting if such a restriction was necessary to avoid a significant risk of the disclosure or misuse of confidential information belonging to the former client.

The duties of an accountant could not be greater than those of a solicitor, and might be less, for information relating to his client's affairs which was in a solicitor's possession was usually privileged as well as confidential.

However, some of the information obtained by KPMG was likely to have attracted litigation privilege, although not solicitor-client privilege, and it was conceded by KPMG that an accountant who provided litigation support services of the kind which they provided to Prince Jefri must be treated in the same way as a solicitor.

The court's jurisdiction to intervene on behalf of a former client was founded not on the avoidance of any impropriety but on the protection of confidential information.

It was incumbent on the former client to establish:

1 The solicitor was in possession of information which was confidential to him and to the disclosure of which he had not consented, and

2 The information was or might be relevant to the new matter in which the interest of the new client was or might be adverse to his own.

Although the burden of proof was on the former client, it was not a heavy one. The former might readily be inferred and the latter would often be obvious.

Whether founded on contract or equity, solicitors' duty to preserve confidentiality was unqualified. It was a duty to keep the information confidential, not merely to take all reasonable steps to do so.

Moreover, it was not merely a duty not to communicate the information to a third party. It was a duty not to misuse it.

His Lordship agreed with criticisms made of the test laid down *Rakusen*. It imposed an unfair burden on a former client, exposed him to a potential avoidable risk to which he had not consented and failed to give him sufficient assurance that his confidence would be respected. It also exposed the solicitor to a degree of uncertainty which could inhibit him in his dealings with the second client.

It was difficult to discern any justification in principle for a rule which exposed a former client, without his consent, to any avoidable risk, however slight, that confidential information imparted in the course of a fiduciary relationship could be used to his disadvantage.

Anything less than a strict approach failed to give effect to the policy on which legal professional privilege was based. It was of overriding importance to the proper administration of justice that a client should be able to have complete confidence that what he told his lawyer would remain secret.

Chinese walls were widely used by financial institutions in the City of London and elsewhere. They were the favoured technique for managing the conflicts of interest which arose when financial business was carried on by a conglomerate.

KPMG insisted that, like other large firms of accountants, they were accustomed to maintaining client confidentiality, not just within the firm but also within a particular team. They stressed that large firms of accountants were very experienced in the erection and operation of information barriers.

They asserted it was part of the professional culture in which staff worked and became second nature to them. They said the arrangements they made satisfied the most stringent test and there was no risk that information obtained in the course of Project Lucy had or would become available to anyone on Project Gemma.

His Lordship was not persuaded that that was so. Even in the financial services industry good practice required there to be established institutional arrangements designed to prevent the flow of information between different departments. The chinese walls which featured in the present case were established ad hoc and were erected within a single department.

When the number of personnel involved was taken into account together with the fact that the teams engaged on Project Lucy and Project Gemma each had a rotating membership, so that members may have joined from and returned to other projects, the difficulty of enforcing confidentiality or preventing unwitting disclosure was very great.

It was one thing, for example, to separate and erect chinese walls between the insolvency, audit, taxation and forensic departments. Such departments often worked from different offices and there might be relatively little movement of personnel between them.

But it was quite another to attempt an information barrier between members of the same department who had been accustomed to working with each other. Forensic accountancy was said to be an area in which new and unusual problems often arose and partners and managers shared information and expertise. Furthermore physical segregation was not necessarily adequate especially within a single department.

In his Lordship's opinion, an effective chinese wall needed to be an established part of the organisational structure of the firm, not created ad hoc.

KPMG had not discharged the heavy burden of showing that there was no risk of confidential information confidential to Prince Jefri, a former client, might inadvertently come to the notice of those on Project Gemma. Therefore the injunction was granted.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Clyde and Lord Hutton agreed, and Lord Hope delivered a concurring speech.

Solicitors: Lovell White Durrant; Stephenson Harwood.

RACING

Chapple-Hyam takes turn in Guineas spotlight

By Chris McGrath

PUNTERS and bookmakers were so critical of last week's Sagitta 2,000 Guineas dress rehearsals that they have been reduced to eavesdropping as members of the cast practice their lines before a mirror. Yesterday, Commander Collins, who disputes favouritism after lurking in his Manton lair all spring, could enjoy the twin benefits of privacy and familiar company in a discreet trial at Newbury racecourse. He duly prospered, but whether the same will be true of his backers is another matter.

Commander Collins worked with Mother Of Pearl and Bienamado. Peter Chapple-Hyam still feels unable to commit Mother Of Pearl to the Sagitta 1,000 Guineas, however — so presumably she cannot present too much of a hindrance for now — while Bienamado is a staying type, who warms up for the Vodafone Derby in the Grosvenor Casinos Dante Stakes at York next month.

It would be alarming indeed should a Guineas favourite falter in such company, with just a dozen days to go. "But then he's not one to excite you at home," Chapple-Hyam said. "They worked a mile and he finished a couple of lengths clear. My horses are just needing the run, but he won't blow up at Newmarket."

Commander Collins relished a test over a mile when running away with the Racing Post Trophy in heavy ground last autumn, having just failed to collar Auction House over seven furlongs on his previous start. Auction House, who worked a little anonymously at Newbury on Saturday, is also heading straight to the Guineas but is by no means certain to preserve his advantage over a mile.

Equally, Commander Collins could prove vulnerable if conditions place an emphasis on speed, though Chapple-Hyam thinks otherwise. "He goes on any ground," he said. "But I believe he is a better horse on fast going. In fact, I know he is."

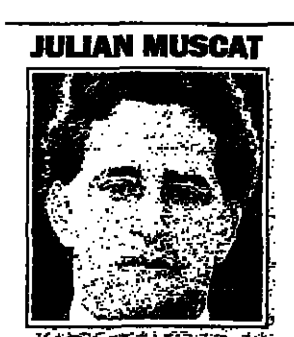
The irony is that a different private trial could well prove more significant than the races that caused such confusion at Newmarket and Newbury last week. Godolphin's trials in Dubai were strongly contested in every sense, and the outcome of the colts' "race" came as no surprise to David Elsworth — who trained Island Sands to win both his starts last season. "He's a very good horse," he said yesterday. "If you harness his energies, he will find gears all the way. They have good people riding out in Dubai, and they have obviously disciplined him well. He can come up and then he can quicken again."

The nascent Flat season formally takes the baton of public interest from National Hunt on their shared card at Sandown on Saturday. Bobbyjo, the Martell Grand National winner, was well served when weights for the 43rd Whitbread Gold Cup went up 1lb at yesterday's five-day entry stage — he is now just 4lb out of the handicap on his pre-Aintree rating. Being so unexposed when adequate demand is made of his jumping and stamina on good ground, the Irish horse looks "thrown in."

Certainly he came to Liverpool a fresh horse, all but sprinting home from the elbow, and Tommy Carberry was heartened by a school over hurdles yesterday. "We always had the Whitbread in mind," the trainer said. "Liverpool did not seem to take much out of him and he has come out of it well." He could offer no such assurances of his son, Paul. Horse and rider seem certain, however, to present another spectacle deserving of to celebration over those railway fences.

Lost on the road to Newmarket

JULIAN MUSCAT



On the level



JULIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT

The much-touted Killer Instinct, right, is put in his place by Alrassaam at Newbury

The conclusion to last year's Flat season came laced with the impression that the juvenile crop was brimful with promise. Any number of candidates for the mile classics were augmented by more than a handful with attractive prospects for the blue riband events over 12 furlongs. Then we witnessed a week of classic trials and the roof fell in. The only trainers left smiling were those yet to send their charges at the races.

While this scenario is hardly novel, it has rarely been so pronounced. It reeks of uncertainty when a once-raced maiden corners the 2,000 Guineas market, as Killer Instinct did before his odds-on defeat at Newbury. In normal circumstances a Frankie Dettori "trial" treble at Newmarket would have yielded yarns about his embarrassment of classic riches. Instead, the silence after Dettori-marshalled victories for Valentine Waltz, Bertolini and Compton Admiral suggested that we had witnessed a phoney war.

It was much the same for Kieren Fallon at Newbury after the champion jockey clicked with a "trial" double — courtesy of Wince and Enrique. For all its merit, Wince's Dubai Duty Free Stakes victory may have caused Fallon to reflect ruefully on her name, for Wince seems certain to keep Fallon from taking the ride on Moiava, the 1,000 Guineas favourite. As for Enrique, his somewhat laboured victory in the Tripleprint Stakes intimated once again that this talented colt may be best served by a test of speed.

Equally confusing were the magic-carpet messages from Dubai, where the *unheralded Island Sands apparently* held sway in the colts' trial. Even more bizarre was the pair of distaffers highlighted after the fillies' trial. Step forward Zahrat Dubai and Pescara, both of whom finished ahead of Etizaaz — herself advanced last week by her former trainer, John Dunlop, as more of a staying type than your typical 1,000 Guineas candidate.

So where does that leave us addicts of the classic scene? Well, we're plainly struggling for direction, if not quite lost inside Goldfinger's notorious Hall of Mirrors. Compton Admiral's Craven Stakes victory carried more significance than it attracted after the baffling effort of Mujahid, whose abject defeat provided the contest's talking point.

By the majestic Arc winner, Suave Dancer, Compton Admiral has legitimate ambitions on the Derby — although the speed shown by his dam, the Mtoto mare Sumoto, warrants an element of caution in respect of him staying the trip. Certainly horses with Compton's Admiral's blend of genes have triumphed at Epsom in the past.

For all that, Compton Admiral will set a sharp standard at Newmarket on May 1. But for a poor ride from Dettori, the colt would have downed Raise A Grand on his final juvenile outing at Sandown last year. And always beware the trainer content in defeat, as Peter Chapple-Hyam was after his Brancaster had chased home Compton Admiral at Newmarket. The inference was that Chapple-Hyam's Commander Collins is rated Brancaster's master at home.

All this summation raises a question perennially posed in respect of the "proper" start to the Flat. Purists adamant that hostilities should commence at the Craven meeting must now consider postponing that date to the Guineas meeting itself. The once-recognised trials now take place in kangaroo courts while the real suspects remain at large.

For the real suspects, read Godolphin — whose downbeat assessment of their private trials is invariably a calculated response. Its generals are too astute to generate increased expectation by touting a front-line candidate. One can almost hear them chuckling as they read of the British racing media's efforts to grapple with the worth of Zahrat Dubai. There also lurks the as-yet unresolved issue of whether Aljabr will actually qualify for a place in what threatens to be an oversubscribed Kentucky Derby field.

It was said of the Sport of Kings that no amount of resources could ever buy an all-embracing dominance. While this remains intrinsically true, the waning value of traditional Guineas trials graphically illustrates the sport's changing face. Whatever your view of Godolphin's involvement, one of its legacies is that Flat racing in April has become almost as irrelevant as the false dawn at Doncaster in March.

□ *Julian Muscat writes on Flat racing every Tuesday*

GOING POINTS

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE GOING TODAY

Underfoot conditions: Standard, Hard, Firm, Good, Soft, Heavy

PONTEFRACT Flat, 7-race card
1st race: 2.20
Winning favourites: 34.3%
Long-distance traveller: Someyda (3.50), 235 miles

CHEPSTOW Jumps, 6-race card
1st race: 2.10
Winning favourites: 38.9%
Long-distance traveller: Home Counties (3.40), 225 miles

FOLKESTONE Flat, 8-race card
1st race: 2.00
Winning favourites: 32.7%
Long-distance traveller: Beyond The Clouds (2.30), 266 miles

EARLY BIRD
Best value this morning
Holy Smoke
7/1 with Coral
4.20 Pontefract

See racecards for detailed going

CHEPSTOW

ROB WRIGHT
2.10 Comiche — 3.40 Warm Spell
2.40 See Enough — 4.10 Sol Music
3.10 Saffron Moss — 4.40 Enipeus

Carl Evans: 3.10 Derring Dove.

GOING: SOFT — SIS

2.10 SAPLING NOVICES HURDLE (£2,444: 2m 4f 110yd) (11 runners)

1 F221 KELLYS CONQUEST 7 (S) J Mullins 6-11-1 A Thornton
2 4433 BALLYNABRAGGET 15 N Twiston-Davies 6-11-0 C Llewellyn
3 0-P BORDER REIVER 38 N Twiston-Davies 6-11-0 T Jenks
4 40-0 JAMBO BWANA 14 N Henderson 6-11-0 M A Fitzgerald
5 0 TANNER'S GLENN 27 Miss C Dyson 6-11-0 B Powell
6 05 VIRAC BOY 39 G McCourt 6-11-0 E Husband
7 2103 CORMICHE 15 (S) C Kellett 4-10-13 L Harvey
8 P ALL-INCLUSIVE 119 H Daly 6-10-9 R Johnson
9 0 IMPETUOSITY 15 S Cole 5-10-9 Guy Lewis (3)
10 4-23 SAINT CECILIA 13 B Eckley 6-10-9 L Cummins (3)
11 4 EKO DEAUVILLE 74 (BF) P Hobbs 4-10-7 R Widger (5)

3-1 Comiche, 4-1 Kellys Conquest, Saint Cecilia, 5-1 Ballynabragget, 6-1 Eko Deauville, 14-1 Border Reiver, Jambo Bwana, 20-1 others.

2.40 WEATHERBYS TURF NEWS HANDICAP CHASE (£4,007: 3m) (10)

1 F404 FLAKED OATS 31 (D,F,G,S) P Nicholls 10-12-0 J Tizzard
2 P226 SEE ENOUGH 20 (D,S) R Buckler 11-11-5 J R Kavanagh
3 2122 MAJORS LEGACY 48 (BF,D,S) H Daly 10-11-5 R Johnson
4 4211 RIPARIUS 62 (F,G,S) P R Webber 8-11-2 N Williamson
5 215- HOODED HAWK 458 (D,G) N Henderson 8-10-13 M A Fitzgerald
6 51P5 HAWAIIAN SAM 14 (D,F,G,S) K Burke 9-10-12 A Maguire
7 1444 BELMOREBRUNO 15 (B,S) M Pipe 9-10-9 A P McCoy
8 2512 PINK GIN 17 (V,D,F,G,S) M Meagher 12-10-3 C McCormack (3)
9 1321 BARONCELLI 15 (G,S) M Wilkinson 9-10-0 W Marston
10 243F HIGH MOOD 34 (G,S) T George 9-10-0 R Walsley

7-2 Majors Legacy, 9-2 Riparius, 5-1 Flaked Oats, 7-1 Baroncelli, 8-1 See Enough, Belmorebruno, 10-1 Hooded Hawk, Pink Gin, 14-1 others.

3.10 DUNRAVEN BOWL HUNTERS CHASE (£3,599: 3m) (18)

1 F1P2 ARCHER 39 (D,F,S) R Lewis 11-12-8 Mr A Price (7)
2 -1F2 BOXING MATCH 15 (D,F,G,S) S R Brown 12-12-8 Mr S Lloyd (7)
3 P5P2 SAFFRON MOSS 10P (CD,F,S) Mrs S Farr 9-12-8 Miss F Wilson (7)
4 41P2 WARREN BOY 17P (BF,D,F,G,S) T L Jones 9-12-8 Mr A Dalton (7)
5 U422 BULLENS BAY 15P (D,F,G,S) J Milton 10-12-6 Mr R Burton (5)
6 6S33 HIGH GUARDIAN 37P (BF,D,F,G,S) T L Jones 10-12-6 Mr N Fehily (3)
7 4012 MISTER HORATIO 12 (D,G,S) W Lewis 9-12-6 Mr M Lewis (7)
8 F12U MR DOW JONES 10P (D,G,S) Mrs L Goldsworthy 7-12-6 Mr D O'Meara (7)
9 1321 VERYVEL 7P (D,G,S) T L Jones 8-12-6 Mr G Lewis (7)
10 5FP1 VIARDOT 10P (D,F,G,S) R J Rowsell 10-12-6 Mr S Blackwell (7)
11 2123 DERRING DOVE 15P (D,G,S) H Laws 7-12-3 Mr J Jukes
12 -P34 ICECAPADE 15P (D,F,G,S) Miss R Williams 11-12-3 Miss R Williams (7)
13 1111 KERRY SOLDIER BLUE 10P (D,G,S) R W A Price 10-12-3 Miss P Jones
14 52F1 MR MAD 15P (V,D,S) Mrs D Hamer 11-12-3 Mr P Hamer (7)
15 F142 SIP OF BRANDY 15P (B,BF,D,G,S) Mrs L Goldsworthy 6-12-3 Mr D S Jones (3)
16 /1P- RYMIN THYNE 339P (D,S) Mrs S Farthing 10-11-12 Mr D Mansell (7)
17 -P40 TIGER LORD 31P (D,S) Miss L Day 8-11-12 Mr T Gibney (3)
18 R352 MO'S KELIRO 15P Mrs J Marsh 7-11-7 Miss A Meakins (7)

9-2 Kerry Soldier Blue, 11-2 Viardot, 7-1 Saffron Moss, Mister Horatio, 8-1 Boxing Match, 10-1 High Guardian, Veryvel, 12-1 others.

3.40 CAFFREYS IRISH ALE HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,720: 2m 110yd) (7)

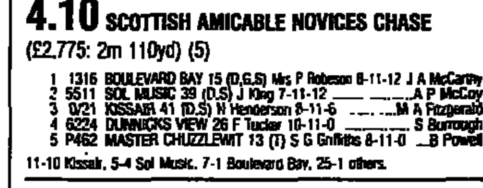
1 -2F5 VIRTUOSO 144 (D,G) C Mann 5-12-0 Mr N Fehily (7)
2 -223 WARM SPELL 13 (D,G) G L Moore 9-11-9 A P McCoy
3 -450 HOME COUNTIES 33 (D,G,S) J Hetherton 10-11-9 D J Moffatt
4 3102 THE BREWMASTER 36 (D,S) I Williams 7-10-10 G Tormey
5 12U3 KRABLOONIK 13 (BF,D,S) J Mullins 5-10-8 A Thornton
6 3300 NORDANSK 20 (D,F,S) M Madgwick 10-10-7 B Fenton
7 2551 ATLANTIC MIST 7 (G,S) B Millman 6-10-0 D Salter

5-2 Warm Spell, 7-2 The Brewmaster, 9-2 Krabloonik, 5-1 Atlantic Mist, 8-1 Virtuoso, Nordansk, 12-1 Home Counties.

4.10 SCOTTISH AMICABLE NOVICES CHASE (£2,775: 2m 110yd) (5)

1 1316 BOULEVARD BAY 15 (D,G,S) Mrs P Robeson 8-11-12 J A McCarthy
2 5511 SOL MUSIC 39 (D,S) J King 7-11-12 A P McCoy
3 0/21 KISSAIR 41 (D,S) N Henderson 8-11-6 M A Fitzgerald
4 6224 DUNNICKS VIEW 26 F Tucker 10-11-0 S Burrough
5 P462 MASTER CHUZZLEWIT 13 (T) S G Griffiths 8-11-0 B Powell

11-10 Kissair, 5-4 Sol Music, 7-1 Boulevard Bay, 25-1 others.



4.40 PUPPY WALKERS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,486: 2m 110yd) (14)

1 4061 LOOK SHARPER 17 (D,G) R Buckler 6-11-6 B Powell
2 -00P BARAN ITSU 7 K Burke 5-11-0 N Williamson
3 1 BATSWING 36 (S) B Millman 4-11-0 D Salter
4 00 BONANZA PEAK 10 D Burchell 6-11-0 D J Burchell
5 -6P5 BRAVE KING 17 (D,S) G McCourt 6-11-0 W Marston
6 102 ENIPEUS 15 (V,S) M Pipe 4-11-0 A P McCoy
7 ROTOR MAN 62F D Gandolfo 5-11-0 D Leahy
8 S THATL DO 37P H Lavis 5-10-9 O McPhail (5)
9 0 BOMBAY MIX 17 (B,T) J Portman 4-10-8 C Maude
10 0 DARE 194 E L James 4-10-8 J R Kavanagh
11 DUEL ISLAND 225F J Spearing 4-10-8 G Tormey
12 5 ELAANDO 24 Mrs M Jones 4-10-8 A Maguire
13 66 I WISH YOU LOVE 6 P Hobbs 4-10-8 R Widger (5)
14 53 LIGHTNING STAR 17 R Stronge 4-10-8 Mr S Stronge (7)

7-4 Enipeus, 11-4 Batswing, 4-1 Look Sharper, 8-1 Elaando, Lightning Star, 12-1 I Wish You Love, 20-1 Bonanza Peak, Brave King, 25-1 others.



BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Chepstow: 4.40 Bombay Mix, Enipeus. **Folkestone:** 3.00 Ela Agapi Mou. 5.05 Doctor Bravious. **Pontefract:** 2.50 Bedevilled, Globe Raider.



RACING AHEAD

Mike Brewer suggests the best value in the ante-post market

WHITBREAD GOLD CUP
Sandown, April 24

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Tote
Bobbyjo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Baronet	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Betty's Boy	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Boss Doyle	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mahler	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Go Ballistic	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nahthen Lad	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fine Thyne	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
General Wolfe	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
The Outback Way	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Jathib	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eulogy	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

AN EXTRA dimension to this year's Whitbread Gold Cup is a £50,000 bonus - on offer to any horse who follows a first-four placing in the Grand National with victory at Sandown - set to be chased by Aintree winner Bobbyjo.

The success of Mr Frisk in both races in 1990 will encourage connections of the versatile Irish performer, and Life Of A Lord, seventh to Rough Quest at Aintree before winning the Whitbread three years ago, is further proof that a prior run in the National is no barrier to success.

General Wolfe and Go Ballistic head the handicap, but only Life Of A Lord has carried more than 10st 10lb to victory since Desert Orchid in 1988. Interestingly, Nineties winners Harwell Lad, Cache Fleur and Ushers Island were all out of the handicap proper.

NAHTHEN LAD, eleventh in the Grand National and set to carry 10st 4lb on Saturday, boasts the ideal profile, and, at 14-1 with the Tote, more than three times the price of Bobbyjo, rates the value bet. In the front rank until his stamina gave out inside the final mile at Aintree, he had previously returned to form with an excellent seven lengths third to Betty's Boy in the William Hill Chase (3m 1f) at Cheltenham. Saturday's intermediate trip should prove perfect.

Boss Doyle was found to have pulled muscles in his back when disappointing at Leopardstown in early February and would not be without a chance if back to the form that had earlier seen him finish fourth to Teeton Mill in the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury. Mahler, two places back in sixth that day, has proved one of the season's major disappointments but caught the eye staying on from behind when sixth in the John Hughes Chase at Aintree (2m 6f).

SPECIALISTS

CHEPSTOW: Trainers: P Nicholls, 33 winners from 106 runners, 31.1%; P Hobbs, 28 from 105, 26.7%; J Mullins, 4 from 16, 25.0%; M Pipe, 40 from 199, 20.1%; G McCourt, 4 from 25, 16.0%; N Twiston-Davies, 18 from 120, 15.0%; D Burchell, 3 from 21, 14.3%; J King, 5 from 39, 12.8%; D Gandolfo, 4 from 36, 11.1%. Only qualifiers.

Jockeys: J Tizzard, 13 winners from 33 rides, 39.4%; R Widger, 4 from 11, 36.4%; A P McCoy, 39 from 161, 24.2%; A Maguire, 14 from 66, 21.2%; N Williamson, 6 from 29, 20.7%; G Tormey, 7 from 37, 18.9%; R Johnson, 16 from 98, 16.3%; L Cummins, 3 from 19, 15.8%; B Fenton, 5 from 32, 15.6%; W Marston, 11 from 73, 15.1%.

Uplands put on market

UPLANDS Stables, the Lambourn yard formerly used by Fred Winter and now occupied by Simon Sherwood, has been put on the market by its owner, Andrew Cohen. Sherwood will be given the opportunity to purchase all or part of the complex.

Cohen also intends to sell more than 30 horses, but these will not include his dual Grand National runner-up, Suny Bay, who will be one of six Cohen takes to his home in Hertfordshire to be trained under permit.

"My only regret is that even though we have invested significantly in stock and facilities, we have been unable, due to the financial structure of National Hunt racing, to make this operation commercially viable," Cohen said. "I wish Simon every success."

PONTEFRACT

ROB WRIGHT
2.20 Es Go — 3.50 Bawsian (nb)
2.50 Claim Gebal Claim — 4.20 Nominator Lad
3.20 Gallery God — 4.50 Spa Lane
5.20 Weaver Of Words

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.20 Truant. 3.50 GLANCE (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.20 PONTEFRACT APPRENTICE SERIES (ROUND ONE) HANDICAP (£2,239. 1m 2f) (18 runners)

101 (5) 54-224 BAAJIL 68 (Crown Pkg & Mailing Svs Ltd) D Cosgrove 4-9-10 D Hayden (3) 54
102 (12) 3-40 FRISKY FOX 12 (Mrs J Bissill) R Hollinshead 5-9-7 P M Quinn 58
103 (14) 06003- BRONZINO 153J (Miss B Swire) G Balding 4-9-3 D Mason 79
104 (17) 32044- CHIMES OF PEACE 210 (G) (Secret Seven Ptnrs) J Eyre 4-9-1 D Young (5) 83
105 (13) 00-462 CLASSIC COLOURS 15 (T) (P Jones) G Yardley 6-8-10 D Williams 61
106 (11) 254262 HOMESTEAD 8 (F,G) (G Shoemark) R Hannon 5-8-9 L Newman (7) 78
107 (16) 1-4368 SARATOGA RED 35 (S) (Valley Paddocks) E Alston 5-8-6 Melanie Worden (7) 75
108 (10) 3460-0 BEAU ROBERTO 10 (F,S) (J Armstrong) J Goldie 5-8-5 R Fowley (5) 83
109 (1) 02412- ES GO 11J (BF,D,S) (P Beaton-Brown) R Bastiman 6-8-4 P Fitzsimons 79
110 (15) 51-343 JOHNNIE THE JOKER 32 (B,G) (Miss M Smith) J Leigh 8-8-4 J Bosley (5) 80
111 (3) 2502-0 BODFARI SIGNET 13 (Bodfari Stud) M W Easterby 3-8-3 S Finnamore (3) 62
112 (4) /3110/ PENDOLINO 724 (BF,CD,F,S) (J Wright) A Mulholland 8-8-3 M Semple (5) --
113 (2) 403-00 CROMER PIER 12 (B) (M Benaston) G Fierro 4-8-1 G Hannon 74
114 (7) 4060-0 NOIRIE 13 (CD,S) (Miss D Woods) M Brittain 5-7-13 D Egan (7) 50
115 (8) 112530 MOONRAKING 14J (B) (J Pointon & Sons) Miss S Wilton 6-7-13 P Clarke 86
116 (9) 11510- STOLEN MUSIC 167 (D,F,S) (P Cartmell) R Barr 6-7-11 W Hutchinson (3) 76
117 (18) 3000-0 SECONDS AWAY 5 (F) (J Goldie) J Goldie 8-7-10 D Glennon (5) [illegible]
118 (6) /0000- DESIRE'S GOLD 300 (M Brittain) M Brittain 4-7-10 I Grantham (5) —

Long handicap: Seconds Away 7-5, Desire's Gold 7-1.

BETTING: 5-1 Es Go, 11-2 Homestead, 6-1 Chimes Of Peace, Classic Colours, 10-1 Bronzino, Beau Roberto, Johnnie The Joker, 12-1 others.

1998: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM ANALYSIS: Baajil and Frisky Fox look high enough in the weights for maidens. Bronzino's 5½l third to Al's Fella in a Redcar handicap (1m 3f, good to soft) last term was not a bad effort but fitness has to be taken on trust. Chimes Of Peace turned in a good performance when 4½l fourth to Once More For Luck in a handicap at York (1m 2f, good) last year but reappears after a long absence. Classic Colours, 3½l second to Swift in a Warwick handicap (1m 2f 169yd, good to soft) last time is a possible, as is Homestead, a short head second to Delight Of Dawn in a Windsor handicap (1m, good) last time, but this trip may be beyond his best. Preference is for ES GO, 3l second to Toshiba Talk in a Newcastle handicap (1m 2f, soft). He comes here from a winning stint over hurdles.



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SPECIALISTS

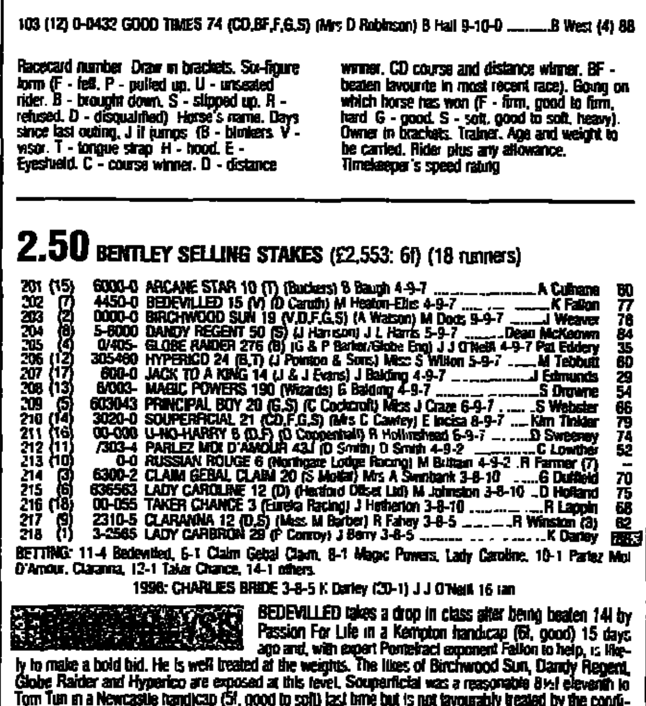
PONTEFRACT: Trainers: S Woods, 6 winners from 17 runners, 35.3%; J Dunlop, 12 from 45, 26.7%; L Cumani, 8 from 31, 25.8%; J Gosden, 7 from 27, 25.9%; J Hetherton, 5 from 23, 21.7%; B Hills, 8 from 38, 21.1%; R Fahey, 8 from 40, 20.0%; Sir M Prescott, 3 from 19, 15.8%; G Wragg, 4 from 26, 15.4%; A Stewart, 3 from 20, 15.0%.

Jockeys: Pat Eddery, 17 winners from 46 rides, 37.0%; O Sweeney, 3 from 11, 27.3%; L Dettori, 18 from 70, 25.7%; K Fallon, 36 from 168, 21.4%; T Quinn, 4 from 20, 20.0%; W Ryan, 11 from 62, 17.7%; M Henry, 4 from 26, 15.4%; K Darley, 29 from 210, 13.8%; R Winston, 5 from 37, 13.5%.

READING THE RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F - fell. P - pulled up. U - unseated rider. B - brought down. S - slipped up. R - refused. D - disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing, J if jumps (B - blinkers. V - visor. T - tongue strap. H - hood. E - Eyeshield. C - course winner. D - distance winner. CD course and distance winner. BF - beaten favourite in most recent race). Going on which horse has won (F - firm, good to firm, hard. G - good. S - soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight to be carried. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.



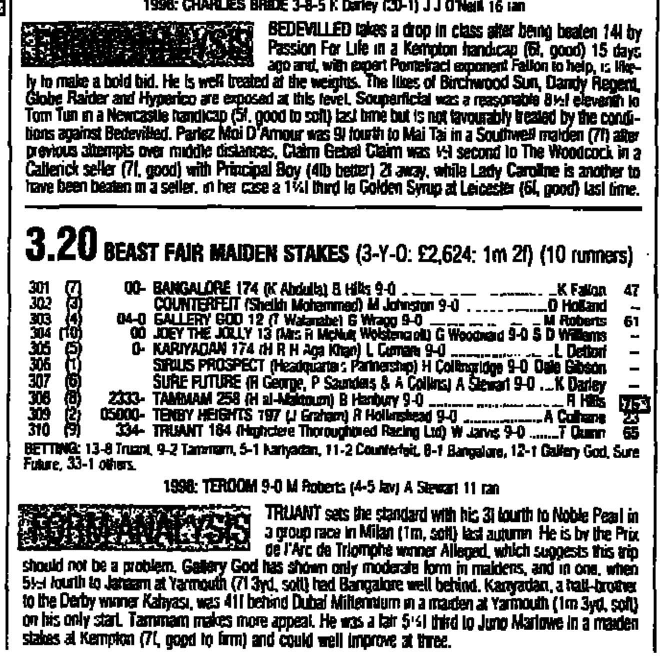
2.50 BENTLEY SELLING STAKES (£2,553: 6f) (18 runners)

201 (15) 6000-0 ARCANE STAR 10 (T) (Buckers) B Baugh 4-9-7 A Culhane 80
202 (7) 4450-0 BEDEVILLED 15 (V) (D Caruth) M Heaton-Ellis 4-9-7 K Fallon 77
203 (2) 0000-0 BIRCHWOOD SUN 19 (V,D,F,G,S) (A Watson) M Dods 9-9-7 J Weaver 78
204 (8) 5-6000 DANDY REGENT 50 (S) (J Harrison) J L Harris 5-9-7 Dean McKeown 84
205 (4) 0/405- GLOBE RAIDER 276 (B) (G & P Barker/Globe Eng) J J O'Neill 4-9-7 Pat Eddery 35
206 (12) 305460 HYPERICO 24 (B,T) (J Pointon & Sons) Miss S Wilton 5-9-7 M Tebbutt 60
207 (17) 600-0 JACK TO A KING 14 (J & J Evans) J Balding 4-9-7 J Edmunds 29
208 (13) 6/003- MAGIC POWERS 190 (Wizards) G Balding 4-9-7 S Drowne 54
209 (5) 603043 PRINCIPAL BOY 20 (G,S) (C Cockcroft) Miss J Craze 6-9-7 S Webster 66
210 (14) 3020-0 SOUPERFICIAL 21 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs C Cawley) E Incisa 8-9-7 Kim Tinkler 79
211 (16) 00-000 U-NO-HARRY 6 (D,F) (D Coppenhall) R Hollinshead 6-9-7 D Sweeney 74
212 (11) /303-4 PARLEZ MOI D'AMOUR 43J (D Smith) D Smith 4-9-2 C Lowther 52
213 (10) 0-0 RUSSIAN ROUGE 6 (Northgate Lodge Racing) M Brittain 4-9-2 R Farmer (7) --
214 (3) 6300-2 CLAIM GEBAL CLAIM 20 (S Mollar) Mrs A Swinbank 3-8-10 G Duffield 70
215 (6) 636563 LADY CAROLINE 12 (D) (Hertford Offset Ltd) M Johnston 3-8-10 D Holland 75
216 (18) 00-055 TAKER CHANCE 3 (Eureka Racing) J Hetherton 3-8-10 R Lappin 68
217 (9) 2310-5 CLARANNA 12 (D,S) (Miss M Barber) R Fahey 3-8-5 R Winston (3) 62
218 (1) 3-2565 LADY CARBRON 28 (P Conroy) J Berry 3-8-5 K Darley [illegible]

BETTING: 11-4 Bedevilled, 6-1 Claim Gebal Claim, 8-1 Magic Powers, Lady Caroline, 10-1 Parlez Moi D'Amour, Claranna, 12-1 Taker Chance, 14-1 others.

1998: CHARLIES BRIDE 3-8-5 K Darley (20-1) J J O'Neill 16 ran

FORM ANALYSIS: BEDEVILLED takes a drop in class after being beaten 14l by Passion For Life in a Kempton handicap (6f, good) 15 days ago and, with expert Pontefract exponent Fallon to help, is likely to make a bold bid. He is well treated at the weights. The likes of Birchwood Sun, Dandy Regent, Globe Raider and Hyperico are exposed at this level. Souperficial was a reasonable 8½l eleventh to Tom Tun in a Newcastle handicap (5f, good to soft) last time but is not favourably treated by the conditions against Bedevilled. Parlez Moi D'Amour was 9l fourth to Mai Tai in a Southwell maiden (7f) after previous attempts over middle distances. Claim Gebal Claim was ½l second to The Woodcock in a Catterick seller (7f, good) with Principal Boy (4lb better) 2l away, while Lady Caroline is another to have been beaten in a seller, in her case a 1¼l third to Golden Syrup at Leicester (6f, good) last time.



3.20 BEAST FAIR MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,624: 1m 2f) (10 runners)

301 (7) 00- BANGALORE 174 (K Abdulla) B Hills 9-0 K Fallon 47
302 (3) COUNTERFEIT (Sheikh Mohammed) M Johnston 9-0 D Holland --
303 (4) 04-0 GALLERY GOD 12 (T Wakanabe) G Wragg 9-0 M Roberts 61
304 (10) 00 JOEY THE JOLLY 13 (Mrs R McNulty Wolstencroft) G Woodward 9-0 S D Williams --
305 (5) 0- KARIYADAN 174 (H R H Aga Khan) L Cumani 9-0 L Dettori —
306 (1) SIRIUS PROSPECT (Headquarters Partnership) H Collingridge 9-0 Dale Gibson —
307 (6) SURE FUTURE (R George, P Saunders & A Collins) A Stewart 9-0 K Darley —
308 (8) 2333- TAMMAM 258 (H al-Maktoum) B Hanbury 9-0 R Hills [illegible]
309 (2) 05000- TENBY HEIGHTS 197 (J Graham) R Hollinshead 9-0 A Culhane 23
310 (9) 334- TRUANT 184 (Highclere Thoroughbred Racing Ltd) W Jarvis 9-0 T Quinn 65

BETTING: 13-8 Truant, 9-2 Tammam, 5-1 Kariyadan, 11-2 Counterfeit, 8-1 Bangalore, 12-1 Gallery God, Sure Future, 33-1 others.

1998: TEROOM 9-0 M Roberts (4-5 fav) A Stewart 11 ran

FORM ANALYSIS: TRUANT sets the standard with his 3l fourth to Noble Pearl in a group race in Milan (1m, soft) last autumn. He is by the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner Alleged, which suggests this trip should not be a problem. Gallery God has shown only moderate form in maidens, and in one, when 5½l fourth to Janaam at Yarmouth (7f 3yd, soft) had Bangalore well behind. Kariyadan, a half-brother to the Derby winner Kahyasi, was 41l behind Dubai Millennium in a maiden at Yarmouth (1m 3yd, soft) on his only start. Tammam makes more appeal. He was a fair 5¼l third to Jumo Marlowe in a maiden stakes at Kempton (7f, good to firm) and could well improve at three.

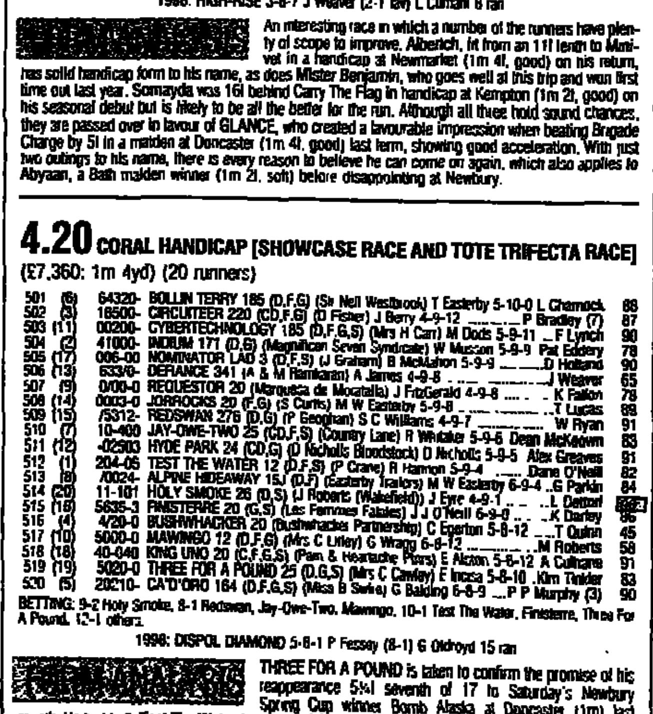
3.50 HIGH-RISE CLASSIFIED STAKES (£6,808: 1m 2f 6yd) (8 runners)

401 (6) 3/14-0 ALBERICH 6 (F,G) (J Abell) M Johnston 4-9-8 D Holland 101
402 (7) 25130- MISTER BENJAMIN 164 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Choy) S Woods 4-9-8 G Duffield 101
403 (1) 1513-0 SOMAYDA 15 (S) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 4-9-8 R Hills 102
404 (5) 30/6-0 AIX EN PROVENCE 15 (T,F,G) (J Featherstone) M Johnston 4-9-6 J Carroll 66
405 (4) 040-24 BAWSIAN 24 (D,G,S) (D Scott) J Eyre 4-9-6 C Lowther [illegible]
406 (2) 41- GLANCE 296 (G) (Sheikh Mohammed) L Cumani 4-9-6 Pat Eddery 94
407 (8) 15- ABYAAN 340 (D,S) (Sheikh A al-Maktoum) J Gosden 4-9-3 L Dettori 103
408 (3) 1400-3 CUGINA 17 (D,S) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 5-9-3 S Drowne 99

BETTING: 9-4 Abyaan, 7-2 Glance, 11-2 Cugina, 6-1 Mister Benjamin, 7-1 Bawsian, 8-1 Alberich, 10-1 Somayda, 33-1 Aix En Provence.

1998: HIGH-RISE 3-8-7 J Weaver (2-1 fav) L Cumani 8 ran

FORM ANALYSIS: An interesting race in which a number of the runners have plenty of scope to improve. Alberich, [illegible] to Manivet in a handicap at Newmarket (1m 4f, good) on his return, has solid handicap form to his name, as does Mister Benjamin, who goes well at this trip and won first time out last year. Somayda was 16l behind Carry The Flag in handicap at Kempton (1m 2f, good) on his seasonal debut but is likely to be all the better for the run. Although all three hold sound chances, they are passed over in favour of GLANCE, who created a favourable impression when beating Brigade Charge by 5l in a maiden at Doncaster (1m 4f, good) last term, showing good acceleration. With just two outings to his name, there is every reason to believe he can come on again, which also applies to Abyaan, a Bath maiden winner (1m 2f, soft) before disappointing at Newbury.



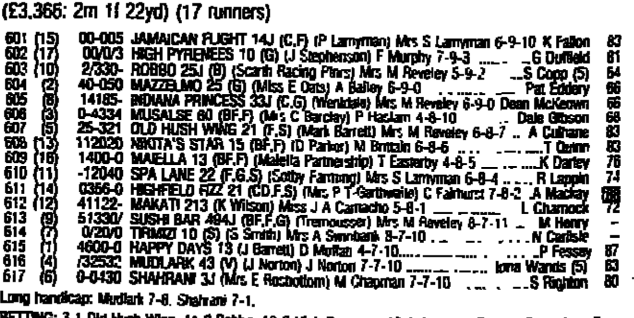
4.20 CORAL HANDICAP [SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (£7,360: 1m 4yd) (20 runners)

501 (6) 64320- BOLLIN TERRY 185 (D,F,G) (Sir Neil Westbrook) T Easterby 5-10-0 L Charnock 88
502 (3) 16500- CIRCUITEER 220 (CD,F,G) (D Fisher) J Berry 4-9-12 P Bradley (7) 87
503 (11) 00200- CYBERTECHNOLOGY 185 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs H Carr) M Dods 5-9-11 F Lynch 90
504 (2) 41000- INDIUM 171 (D,G) (Magnificent Seven Syndicate) W Musson 5-9-9 Pat Eddery 78
505 (17) 006-00 NOMINATOR LAD 3 (D,F,S) (J Graham) B McMahon 5-9-9 D Holland 90
506 (13) 633/0- DEFIANCE 341 (A & M Ramkaran) A James 4-9-8 J Weaver 65
507 (9) 0/00-0 REQUESTOR 20 (Marquesa de Moratalla) J FitzGerald 4-9-8 K Fallon 78
508 (14) 0003-0 JORROCKS 20 (F,G) (S Curtis) M W Easterby 5-9-8 T Lucas 89
509 (15) /5312- REDSWAN 276 (D,G) (P Geoghan) S C Williams 4-9-7 W Ryan 91
510 (7) 10-400 JAY-OWE-TWO 25 (CD,F,S) (County Lane) R Whitaker 5-9-6 Dean McKeown 83
511 (12) -02503 HYDE PARK 24 (CD,G) (D Nicholls Bloodstock) D Nicholls 5-9-5 Alex Greaves 91
512 (1) 204-05 TEST THE WATER 12 (D,F,S) (P Crane) R Hannon 5-9-4 Dane O'Neill 82
513 (8) /0024- ALPINE HIDEAWAY 15J (D,F) (Easterby Traders) M W Easterby 6-9-4 G Parkin 84
514 (20) 11-101 HOLY SMOKE 26 (D,S) (J Roberts (Wakefield)) J Eyre 4-9-1 L Dettori [illegible]
515 (18) 5635-3 FINISTERRE 20 (G,S) (Les Femmes Fatales) J J O'Neill 6-9-0 K Darley 86
516 (4) 4/20-0 BUSHWHACKER 20 (Bushwhacker Partnership) C Egerton 5-8-12 T Quinn 45
517 (10) 5000-0 MAWINGO 12 (D,F,G) (Mrs C Utley) G Wragg 6-8-12 M Roberts 58
518 (18) 40-040 KING UNO 20 (C,F,G,S) (Pam & Heartache Ptnrs) E Alston 5-8-12 A Culhane 91
519 (19) 5020-0 THREE FOR A POUND 25 (D,G,S) (Mrs C Cawley) E Incisa 5-8-10 Kim Tinkler 83
520 (5) 20210- CA'D'ORO 164 (D,F,G,S) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 6-8-9 P P Murphy (3) 90

BETTING: 9-2 Holy Smoke, 8-1 Redswan, Jay-Owe-Two, Mawingo, 10-1 Test The Water, Finisterre, Three For A Pound, 12-1 others.

1998: DISPOL DIAMOND 5-8-1 P Fessey (8-1) G Oldroyd 15 ran

FORM ANALYSIS: THREE FOR A POUND is taken to confirm the promise of his reappearance 5¾l seventh of 17 to Saturday's Newbury Spring Cup winner Bomb Alaska at Doncaster (1m) last month. He had both Test The Water (eighth) and Jay-Owe-Two (ninth) behind that day and it is interesting that he gained his one win from 13 outings last season in April, second time out. The draw has not been particularly kind with only Holy Smoke drawn wider. The latter was winning for the second time this year when beating King Priam ½l in a lady riders' event at Doncaster (1m 2f) last month and remains fairly weighted on a 6lb higher mark. Frankie Dettori is a notable booking. Redswan was not seen out again after finishing a creditable 1½l second of 11 to Hurtswood in a Newmarket (7f) handicap last July off a 2lb lower mark. Like Indium, the winner of valuable one-mile handicap at Newbury off a 5lb lower mark last September, he would have claims if stripping fit on his return. Finisterre was fit from a hurdling campaign when finishing a length third to Rambo Waltzer at Catterick (7f) last month, with King Uno (2lb better off) another 5½l back in eighth.



4.50 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (£3,366: 2m 1f 22yd) (17 runners)

601 (15) 00-005 JAMAICAN FLIGHT 14J (C,F) (P Lamyman) [illegible]
602 (17) 00/0/3 HIGH PYRENEES 10 (G) (J Stephenson) [illegible]
603 (10) 2/330- ROBBO 25J (B) (Scarth Racing Ptnrs) [illegible]
604 (2) 40-050 MAZZELMO 25 (G) (Miss E Oats) A Bailey [illegible]
605 (8) 14185- INDIANA PRINCESS 33J (C,G) (Wensleydale) [illegible]
606 (3) 0-4334 MUSALSE 60 (BF,F) (Mrs C Barclay) [illegible]
607 (5) 25-321 OLD HUSH WING 21 (F,S) (Mark Barrett) [illegible]
608 (13) 112020 NIKITA'S STAR 15 (BF,F) (D Parker) [illegible]
609 (16) 1400-0 MAIELLA 13 (BF,F) (Maiella Partnership) [illegible]
610 (11) -12040 SPA LANE 22 (F,G,S) (Sotby Farming) [illegible]
611 (14) 0356-0 HIGHFIELD FIZZ 21 (CD,F,S) (Mrs P T-Gar[illegible]) [illegible]
612 (12) 41122- MAKATI 213 (K Wilson) Miss J A Camacho [illegible]
613 (9) 51330/ SUSHI BAR 494J (BF,F,G) (Tremousser) [illegible]
614 (7) 0/20/0 TIRMIZI 10 (S) (S Smith) Mrs A Swinbank [illegible]
615 (1) 4600-0 HAPPY DAYS 13 (J Barrett) D Moffatt [illegible]
616 (4) /32532 MUDLARK 43 (V) (J Norton) J Norton [illegible]
617 (6) 0-0430 SHAHRANI 3J (Mrs E Rosbottom) M Cha[illegible]

Long handicap: Mudlark 7-6, Shahrani 7-1.

BETTING: 3-1 Old Hush Wing, 11-2 Robbo, 13-2 High Pyrenees, [illegible] cess, Musalse, Maiella, Makati, 14-1 others

1998: HIGHFIELD FIZZ 6-7-12 L Charnock [illegible]

FORM ANALYSIS: Mary Reveley sets a [illegible] being for ROBBO. He [illegible] last year to suggest [illegible] third twice before finishing 16th of 29 to Spirit Of Love in the [illegible] the weights. A successful winter hurdling campaign lends fu[illegible] through a lack of fitness or stamina. Old Hush Wing looks bes[illegible] other to enjoy hurdling success this winter, he came clear in [illegible] at Newcastle (2m) last month and is not unduly punished by [illegible] mount Jamaican Flight has run disappointingly over hurdles [illegible] Doncaster (2m 2f) and makes less appeal than High Pyrene[illegible] well over hurdles and may do better for this longer trip after fi[illegible] Ardleigh Charmer at Hamilton (1m 5f) 10 days ago.



5.20 SPRING MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,534: 6f) (9 runners)

1 (1) 6-6 DALAAUNA 7 (Nabil Mourad) J Gosden 8-[illegible]
2 (3) 0-0 LITTLE MERMAID 4 (Burnbrood Sports L[illegible]) [illegible]
3 (7) 0804- LV GIRL 176 (Mrs C Richardson) G Baldin[illegible]
4 (9) 4- MISS SHEMA 216 (A Ali) B Hanbury 8-11 [illegible]
5 (4) 00- MORNING GLORY 202 (Mrs A Brown/G Pa[illegible]) [illegible]
6 (2) PILGRIM'S WAY (Sir Edmund Loder) M P[illegible]
7 (8) 0- ROSEUM 178 (Mrs B Mills) R Guest 8-11 [illegible]
8 (5) SMOKE SIGNAL (3rd Middleham Partners[illegible]) [illegible]
9 (6) 5222- WEAVER OF WORDS 203 (BF) (M al-Ma[illegible]) [illegible]

BETTING: 5-2 Weaver Of Words, 3-1 Pilgrim's Way, 7-2 Miss Shema, [illegible] Morning Glory, Roseum, 25-1 others

1998: SARAH STOKES 8-11 D Holland ([illegible]

FORM ANALYSIS: Rae Guest saddled th[illegible] struggle to repeat the [illegible] ished 12l eighth of ni[illegible] maiden last October. Fellow Newmarket raiders Dalaauna, 9½[illegible] ket (6f) on her reappearance, Miss Shema, 5¼l fourth of 14 [illegible] ber, and the Gone West newcomer Pilgrim's Way deserve res[illegible] WEAVER OF WORDS. The latter signed off last season with a [illegible] in a Newmarket (7f) nursery off a mark of 79 and may not nee[illegible] here. The market should offer a good guide to the chances of [illegible] lege Chapel filly out of a 1m 1f and 1m 2f winner.

□ Direct Route, the winner of the Mumm Melling Chase at Aintree, has been confirmed as a runner in the BMW Chase at Punchestown next Tuesday, his trainer, Howard Johnson, said yesterday.

□ There will be an inspection at Carlisle at 3pm tomorrow to decide whether Friday's meeting can go ahead. Heavy rain has saturated the course and the forecast is unfavourable.

□ Norman Williamson was yesterday sentenced to 100 hours' community service and banned from driving for three years by a court in Gloucester after admitting to drink-driving.

PPP County Championship: Somerset suffer as Warwickshire upset the odds

Penney rolls on to Piper's tune

By Geoffrey Dean

EDGBASTON (first day of four: Somerset won toss): Warwickshire, with three first-innings wickets in hand, have scored 356 for seven against Somerset

JAMIE COX must have been pleased to have won his first toss as Somerset captain. Edgbaston, on a particularly dank April morning and still covered at breakfast time in a white coat of frost, cannot have looked too attractive for batting to the Tasmanian. Nor should it have been. However, thanks to some Somerset bowling that was generally poor, Warwickshire cantered past 350 when they ought to have been dismissed for less than 200.

Such unexpected riches on a green, seaming pitch puts them in a very strong position. Their main concern will be the state of the ground. The water table, after twice the average winter rainfall and a deluge on Monday, is so high, according to Steve Rouse, the groundsman, that more rain today could prevent any further cricket in the match. Play began on time yesterday, but probably only because Rouse was working on the outfield as early as 5.40am.

Soft run-ups are always an impediment for big seam bowlers such as Caddick, but although he bowled some unplayable balls, his length was generally too short. The same could be said for all the visiting medium-pace bowlers, except, perhaps, Kerr. As a result, the Warwickshire batsmen were not drawn forward enough, either being beaten because the ball seamed too much or because they were able to adjust.

By lunch, if Somerset had bowled decently, they could have had five or six wickets. Instead, the scoreboard read 98 for two, one of those being Knight, caught behind off a bottom-edged cut. If he was a little unlucky, then Wagh enjoyed more than his share of good fortune. Three times Caddick found his edge and three times David Shepherd, the umpire, signalled four as the ball eluded the slips.

Warwickshire scored an inordinate number of runs through third man, where Cox refused to post a fielder until late in the day. Piper, in particular, took advantage by continually running the ball behind square for four.

This was the same pitch on which Piper scored his last championship century, in 1994, and, more famously, in the same year, on which Brian Lara amassed 501. Piper did not manage a half-century last season and, so well did he play with Penney in a crucial third-wicket stand of 124, that another century seemed to be reachable. However, Caddick found his edge with a beauty that left him and bounced.

Piper volunteered to replace the injured Ostler at No 5 before the match against Northamptonshire last week. Most observers would consider that to be too high for Piper, who totalled fewer than 300 runs last year, but such was the quality of his defence and shot-selection that he looked very much the part. His elevation means that Warwickshire can play six specialist bowlers.

Mostly, though, it was Penney who held Somerset at bay, scurrying between the wickets and playing with feline tenacity. Somerset could not prise him out — in the important hours at least. His 73, from 170 balls — 67 more than Piper faced — was a welcome return to productivity after a disappointing 1998.

There were useful contributions all round. Hemp helped see off the new ball with several fine shots and, later, Brown thumped ten fours in a rapid, unbeaten fifty. As batting got easier against some tiring bowlers, Smith and Welch also weighed in as Warwickshire tightened their grip.

SCOREBOARD

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings

N V Knight c Turner b Bulbeck	1
M A Wagh c Trescothick b Rose	44
D L Hemp c Turner b Kerr	47
T L Penney c Cox b Kerr	73
†K J Piper c Turner b Caddick	66
D R Brown not out	55
*N M K Smith c Cox b Bulbeck	37
A F Giles lbw b Caddick	1
G Welch not out	23
Extras (lb 9)	9
Total (7 wkts)	356

T A Munton and E S H Giddins to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-65, 3-105, 4-229, 5-242, 6-302, 7-303

BOWLING: Caddick 32-10-90-2; Bulbeck 23-6-83-2; Rose 24-5-90-1; Kerr 15-5-44-2; Burns 8-2-29-0; Pierson 2-0-11-0.

SOMERSET: *J Cox, P D Bowler, P C L Holloway, M E Trescothick, M T Burns, J I D Kerr, †R J Turner, G D Rose, M P L Bulbeck, A R K Pierson, A R Caddick

Umpires: D R Shepherd and M J Harris.



Penney, of Warwickshire, pulls a ball from Caddick as he takes advantage of some tired bowling at Edgbaston

Stewart uses his county wisely

By Richard Hobson

WITH each innings in Sharjah, Alec Stewart drifted progressively further from his best form. The World Cup is less than four weeks away and the England captain, who scored just 42 runs in four innings in the Coca-Cola Cup, needs time at the crease. He will make his first appearance of the season for Surrey in the PPP county championship today at Worcester.

Stewart intends to rest after the four-day game against Worcestershire and the CGU National League fixture against Northamptonshire on Sunday. Unless his touch returns, however, the commitment to Surrey may extend to the championship contest against Northamptonshire as well, before England convene to begin their preparations in Canterbury on May 2.

Graham Thorpe and Adam Hollioake will also play today, although Hollioake will not captain the side until after the World Cup. Mark Butcher has taken charge for the first half of the season as Surrey try to achieve continuity and lighten the burden on their England trio.

"We accept that the World Cup is an enormous event and we want to give England as much help as we can," Keith Medlycott, the Surrey manager, said. Such words are being echoed increasingly around the country. The counties have embraced the concept of central contracts and a firm structure is likely to be implemented next month.

Leicestershire will not risk Alan Mullally against Nottinghamshire today. The left-arm seam bowler strained his side in Sharjah, but he expects to bowl in the nets before the weekend and play against Lancashire next week. Vince Wells will return for the champions, who are preserving an unbeaten run in the competition at Grace Road, stretching back to August 1995.

Lancashire include their three World Cup players — Neil Fairbrother, Ian Austin and Andrew Flintoff — against Middlesex at Lord's. Chris Schofield, the young leg spinner, is also in the squad of 12. Middlesex welcome back Angus Fraser from Sharjah, while Derbyshire begin what could be a traumatic season against Glamorgan at the County Ground.

PETER WYNNE-THOMAS ASSESSES THE LATEST ROUND OF COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES

WARWICKSHIRE v SOMERSET

Edgbaston

Overall: Played 115, Warwickshire won 34, Somerset won 29.
First meeting: 1905.
Trends: Warwickshire's first game of the season was affected by rain and ended in a draw. Somerset play their first game of 1999 after finishing 1998 with three wins, two defeats and a draw.
Recent meetings: Having gained a first-innings lead of 235, Somerset won last year by eight wickets, their first win against Warwickshire since 1984.
Man in form: Dougie Brown scored his maiden century for Warwickshire last week.

DERBYSHIRE v GLAMORGAN

Darby, today

Overall: Played 100, Derbyshire won 36, Glamorgan won 25.
First meeting: 1921.
Trends: This is the first match of 1999 for both counties. Derbyshire won their final game of the 1998 championship, as did Glamorgan, but the latter's success followed two defeats and two draws.
Recent meetings: Rain meant that not even the two first innings were completed in the 1998 game. The 1997 meeting was also a draw, but Derbyshire won the three previous matches.

LEICESTERSHIRE v NOTTS

Leicester, today

Overall: Played 162, Nottinghamshire won 61, Leicestershire won 29.
First meeting: 1895.
Trends: This is Nottinghamshire's opening match, they ended 1998 with four successive losses. Leicestershire beat Essex last week and have won seven successive championship games.
Man in form: Chris Lewis (Leicestershire), 139 and five wickets in last match.
Recent meetings: Leicestershire won last year by an innings and 223 runs. Nottinghamshire have not lost at Leicester since 1989.

MIDDLESEX v LANCASHIRE

Lord's, today

Overall: Played 180, Middlesex won 53, Lancashire won 53.
First meeting: 1865
Trends: Both sides have played one rain-affected draw in 1999.
Recent meetings: There was play on one day only in the 1998 meeting, owing to rain. Lancashire levelled the series in 1997, when they won by an innings. They have not lost at Lord's since 1986.
Man in form: Justin Langer (Middlesex), hit 55 and 241 not out in the match last week.

WORCESTERSHIRE v SURREY

Worcester, today

Overall: Played 114, Surrey won 42, Worcestershire won 21.
First meeting: 1900.
Trends: Worcestershire were lucky to escape with a draw against Durham last week; Surrey should have won the drawn game with Gloucestershire.
Recent meeting: Despite a fourth consecutive 100 from Graeme Hick, Surrey won last year's match by 79 runs. However, Surrey have not won at Worcester since 1983, when Monte Lynch made 112.

HAMPSHIRE v KENT

Southampton, tomorrow

Overall: Played 186, Kent won 82, Hampshire won 40, one tie.
First meeting: 1867
Trends: Kent drew their match last week. This will be Hampshire's first game of 1999. They lost their last game in 1998 and drew the penultimate one.
Recent meetings: A big margin decided the 1998 meeting, Kent winning by 292 runs. Their last defeat at Southampton came in 1989, when Robin Smith scored 182 for Hampshire and Rajesh Maru took eight for 41 in the final innings.

SUSSEX v NORTHANTS

Hove, tomorrow

Overall: Played 117, Sussex won 36, Northamptonshire won 35.
First meeting: 1905.
Trends: Both sides have played one match this season, which finished as rain-affected draws.
Recent meeting: Northants won the 1998 match at home, but had to forfeit 25 points after the pitch was condemned as unfit. Sussex have not beaten Northants at Hove since 1980.
Man in form: Devon Malcolm took six for 112 for Northants last week.

YORKSHIRE v GLOUCS

Headingley, tomorrow

Overall: Played 195, Yorkshire won 99, Gloucestershires won 43.
First meeting: 1872.
Trends: This is Yorkshire's first game, they ended 1998 winning four of the their last five matches. Gloucestershire were fortunate to save the game against Surrey last week.
Man in form: Mike Smith four for 93 and five for 42 against Surrey.
Recent meetings: Gloucestershire won last year by 300 runs; they were last beaten at Headingley in 1987, when Richard Blakey made 204 not out.

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Windsor

Going: good to firm, firm in back straight

2.10 (5f 10yd) 1, **Laurifal** (R Hughes, 9-2); 2, Smart Ridge (11-2); 3, Ignite (4-1 fav). 15 ran. Sh hd, 1l. R Hannon. Tote: £5.80; £2.00, £2.50, £1.50. DF: £17.90. CSF: £28.37

2.40 (1m 67yd) 1, **Queen Zenobia** (L Dettori, 2-1 fav); 2, Tiergarten (12-1); 3, Water Loup (25-1). 13 ran. 3¼, 2l. J Gosden. Tote: £2.70; £1.10, £3.70, £3.60. DF: £33.20. CSF: £25.09.

3.10 (6f) 1, **Sampower Star** (Dane O'Neill, 100-30 jt-fav); 2, Cilin (100-30 jt-fav); 3, Mister Rambo (5-1). 8 ran. NR: Choto Mate. 3½, 1¾. R Hannon. Tote: £2.90; £1.40, £1.10, £2.40. DF: £4.10. CSF: £12.60

3.40 (1m 67yd) 1, **The Whistling Teal** (T Sprake, 10-1); 2, Forty Forte (9-2); 3, Legal Set (12-1). Captain Miller 100-30 fav. 13 ran. 1½, 1¼. J Smyth-Osbourne. Tote: £10.60; £2.60, £2.10, £10.70. DF: £34.90. CSF: £52.21. Tricast: £542.38.

4.10 (1m 2f 7yd) 1, **Secret's Out** (Pat Eddery, 5-4 fav); 2, Montalcino (11-2); 3, Prince Slayer (11-2). 17 ran. Sh hd, 5l. Sir Michael Stoute. Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £2.00, £2.20. DF: £6.70. CSF: £8.49.

4.40 (1m 3f 135yd) 1, **Dalby of York** (J Fortune, 14-1); 2, Grip Fast (16-1); 3, Elle Questro (11-1); 4, Tragic Dancer (14-1). Gallant Glory 6-1 co-fav. 19 ran. NR: Brave Vision. ¾l, 2l. P Cole. Tote: £17.40; £3.30, £8.80, £3.40, £3.30. DF: £213.90. CSF: £231.88. Tricast: £2,387.06.

5.10 (1m 67yd) 1, **Ratatula** (R Ffrench, 7-2); 2, Belladonia (7-2); 3, Musician (6-1). Catriona 3-1 fav. 11 ran. NR: Polish Girl. Sh hd, 5l. L Cumani. Tote: £4.50; £1.40, £1.10, £1.70. DF: £8.80. CSF: £15.33.

Placepot: £371.00.

Quadpot: £62.50.

Nottingham

Going: straight, soft, remainder good to soft, soft in places

2.00 (1m 54yd) 1, **Angie Marinie** (G Hind, 10-1); 2, Oulton Broad (25-1); 3, Needwood Maestro (11-2). Golden Syrup 9-4 fav. 17 ran. NR: Chief Abba. 2½, 1l. R Fahey. Tote: £15.60; £3.60, £11.90, £2.60. DF: £180.50. CSF: £230.46

2.30 (6f 15yd) 1, **Agent Mulder** (D Holland, 6-1, **Rob Wright's nap**); 2, Rum Lad (9-1); 3, Bintang Timor (25-1); 4, Ellens Academy (33-1). Pleading 100-30 fav. 20 ran. 3l, 1½l. P Cundell. Tote: £7.80; £2.10, £2.40, £8.10, £3.30. DF: £40.90. CSF: £57.99. Tricast: £1,262.61.

3.00 (5f 13yd) 1, **Paradise Lane** (G Hind, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Cyclone Flyer (12-1); 3, Mac's Express (5-1). Dangerous Dancer 3-1 jt-fav. 11 ran. NR: Day Star. 2½, ½l. B Millman. Tote: £2.60; £1.10, £4.30, £1.30. DF: £50.40. CSF: £31.19. Day Star (7/1) was withdrawn not under starter's orders. Rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 10p in the pound.

3.30 (1m 6f 15yd) 1, **Nichol Fifty** (Dale Gibson, 25-1); 2, Lady Rachel (6-1); 3, Once More For Luck (6-1); 4, Rear Window (12-1). Ledgendry Line 5-1 fav. 17 ran. NR: Noukari. Sh hd, 3½l. M Tompkins. Tote: £26.50; £9.80, £2.00, £2.60, £1.80. DF: £99.20. Tote Trifecta: £393.20. CSF: £166.63. Tricast: £970.09.

4.00 (1m 6f 15yd) 1, **Raise A Prince** (N Callan, 15-8); 2, The Fly (7-4 fav); 3, Kahlan (11-2). 7 ran. 3l, 8l. S Woods. Tote: £3.20; £1.40, £1.60. DF: £2.50. CSF: £4.88.

4.30 (1m 1f 213yd) 1, **Thrower** (Mrs S Owen, 3-1 fav); 2, Tajar (20-1); 3, The French Furze (14-1); 4, Somerton Boy (12-1). 18 ran. 1¼, nk. S Brookshaw. Tote: £4.30; £1.30, £3.40, £4.50, £5.40. DF: £34.80. CSF: £68.09. Tricast: £717.89.

5.00 (1m 1f 213yd) 1, **High Tatra** (G Duffield, 11-8 fav); 2, Golconda (7-1); 3, Unchain My Heart (6-1). 8 ran. 5l, sh hd. S Woods. Tote: £2.20; £1.00, £2.10, £1.30. DF: £7.40. CSF: £11.01.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £129,943.39 carried forward to Pontefract today).

Placepot: £436.30. **Quadpot:** £14.60.

Hexham

Going: good

1.50 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Nip On** (R Supple, 25-1); 2, Galindo (4-1); 3, Ballymarra Boy (7-2 fav). 20 ran. 1l, 2l. J Turner. Tote: £22.30; £4.70, £1.80, £2.50. DF: £88.00. CSF: £108.95.

2.20 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Steel Rigg** (D Parker, 33-1); 2, Running Moss (16-1); 3, Windthrop (5-1). Classical Dance (fell) 2-1 fav. 19 ran. 1¼, hd. Mrs A Hamilton. Tote: £115.10; £12.40, £6.60, £1.90. DF: £484.50. CSF: £423.88

2.50 (3m 1f ch) 1, **Breath of Scandal** (C McCormack, 25-1); 2, Charming Admiral (8-1); 3, Steen (10-1). Inch Way 3-1 jt-fav. 20 ran. 15l, 4l. C Grant. Tote: £35.80; £4.40, £3.10, £4.10. DF: £282.70. CSF: £194.07

3.20 (2m hdle) 1, **In Good Faith** (N Smith, 7-2); 2, First In The Field (12-1); 3, Oriel Lad (11-2). Teme Valley 3-1 fav. 12 ran. NR: Faustinluce Lady. 3l, 2l. R Barr. Tote: £3.40; £1.10, £2.80, £2.00. DF: £82.00. CSF: £39.99. *Tricast: £213.67.*

3.50 (3m 1f ch) 1, **Pats Cross** (Mr N Tutty, 9-2); 2, Rainbow Times (7-2 fav); 3, Eastlands Hi-Light (7-1). 16 ran. ½l, ¾l. James Byrne. Tote: £6.30; £1.90, £3.40, £2.70. DF: £19.60. CSF: £21.09.

4.20 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, **Boyzontoowa** (R McGrath, 9-1); 2, Malta Man (25-1); 3, Kings Minstral (14-1). The Snow Burn 5-1 fav. 14 ran. NR: Mr Fudge, Royal Crimson. 1½, 3½l. W Storey. Tote: £12.40; £4.30, £8.40, £5.30. DF: £155.20. CSF: £204.21. Tricast: £2,859.28

4.50 (2m flat) 1, **Cambrian Dawn** (R McGrath, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, French Willow (3-1 jt-fav); 3, Weaver Sam (5-1). 21 ran. 1½, 6l. J O'Neill. Tote: £3.90; £1.40, £1.60, £2.10. DF: £7.70. CSF: £11.88

Placepot: £6,416.20. *Quadpot:* £275.20.

FOLKESTONE

ROB WRIGHT

2.00 Flyover	4.00 Democracy
2.30 Barabaschi	4.30 Compensation
3.00 **Wontcostalotbut** (nap)	5.05 Imperial Prince
3.30 Oudalmuteena	5.35 Over The March

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.00 **KATIE'S CRACKER.**

Newmarket Correspondent: 4.30 Compensation.

GOING: SOFT DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.00 SANDLING CLAIMING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,144: 5f) (8 runners)

1 (7) DR DUKE R Hodges 9-0 ... R Cochrane –
2 (3) RUN FORREST J C Poulton 8-12 ... P Doe (3) –
3 (1) FLYOVER B Millman 8-9 ... T Sprake –
4 (5) PLAYINAROUND W G M Turner 8-7 ... A Clark –
5 (8) 0 RIO'S DIAMOND 12 M Ryan 8-7 ... G Carter –
6 (4) ALABAMA WURLEY D Morris 8-5 ... N Day –
7 (2) CHARLEIGH KEARY J S Moore 8-5 ... J F Egan –
8 (6) 0 BAYTOWN HARMONY 24 P McEntee 8-3 D Meernagh (5) [illegible]

7-4 Playinaround, 7-2 Baytown Harmony, 9-2 Flyover, 7-1 Alabama Wurley, 10-1 Dr Duke, Charleigh Keary, 12-1 Rio's Diamond, 25-1 Run Forrest.

2.30 BARHAM MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,352: 6f) (16)

1 (7) 35-2 BARABASCHI 20 P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 ... J Fortune [illegible]
2 (4) 0 BEYOND THE CLOUDS 13 J Wainwright 9-0 G Bardwell 38
3 (6) 343- CHARGE 274 B Smart 9-0 ... G Carter 65
4 (11) COOL TEMPER (T) J Banks 9-0 ... R Cochrane –
5 (5) 30-2 ELMHURST BOY 20 S Dow 9-0 ... J F Egan 74
6 (12) 044- LOHAN 140 Miss Z Davison 9-0 ... T Sprake 54
7 (13) MEXICAN ROCK J Toller 9-0 ... S Sanders –
8 (14) 0 MR STYLISH 20 I Balding 9-0 ... S Whitworth –
9 (16) 46-6 ANOTHER LOVER 66 S Knight 8-9 ... V Slattery 43
10 (8) 00- FEROCITY 148 M Jarvis 8-9 ... L Stoker (7) –
11 (3) 00- MAESTEG 204 M Fetherston-Godley 8-9 ... F Norton 40
12 (9) 000- MAGIC MONDAY 217 R Hannon 8-9 ... C Rutter 42
13 (15) 0- MOSEY ALONG 235 L A Dace 8-9 ... A Morris –
14 (10) PINK MOSAIC J G Smyth-Osbourne 8-9 ... M Fenton –
15 (2) 00- PIPSISEWA 248 D Elsworth 8-9 ... N Pollard (3) 67
16 (1) THREE CHERRIES R Hannon 8-9 ... R Hughes –

8-11 Barabaschi, 7-2 Elmhurst Boy, 8-1 Charge, 16-1 Pipsisewa, 20-1 Mexican Rock, Pink Mosaic, Three Cherries, 25-1 others.

3.00 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (£2,905: 1m 7f) (13)

1 (4) /10- ELA AGAPI MOU 34J (B,BF,CD,S) G L Moore 6-9-10 R Brisland (7) 54
2 (7) 1-44 NEEDWOOD SPIRIT 10 (S) B Morgan 4-9-10 S Sanders 71
3 (10) 0-00 MOLA 15 M Ryan 4-9-9 ... M Baird (3) 70
4 (3) 5/03 TUKANO 7 (T,S) J Jenkins 8-9-4 ... J Fortune 30
5 (11) /0-1 WONTCOSTALOTBUT 7 (CD,S) M Wilkinson 5-9-4 (5ex) S Whitworth –
6 (6) 0/2- KINGSFOLD PET 43J (CD,S) M Haynes 10-8-13 A Clark 45
7 (8) 15/5 THE GREAT FLOOD 20 (D) C Dwyer 6-8-9 A Daly (3) 58
8 (5) 0616 KATIE'S CRACKER 22 (S) M Quinn 4-8-5 ... F Norton [illegible]
9 (13) 000- GOLDEN HADEER 136 (C,D,F,G,S) M Ryan 8-8-5 P McCabe 46
10 (12) 32-5 THE ROBE 15 A Carroll 4-8-5 ... S Carson (5) 66
11 (1) -640 STORM COMMAND 35 D Arbuthnot 5-8-3 ... T Sprake 61
12 (9) /223 SHEPHERDS REST 15 S Mellor 7-8-3 ... D Meernagh (5) 72
13 (2) 032- DUTCH DYANE 155J G Enright 6-8-2 ... A Nicholls (5) 49

7-2 Wontcostalotbut, 5-1 Ela Agapi Mou, Shepherds Rest, 6-1 Needwood Spirit, 8-1 The Great Flood, 10-1 Tukano, The Robe, 12-1 others.

3.30 FOLKESTONE TOWN STAKES (£3,052: 7f) (12)

1 (3) 0012 INDIAN BLAZE 7 (BF,CD,S) D Elsworth 5-9-8 N Pollard (3) 74
2 (4) 440- CADW 164 I Balding 4-9-6 ... S Whitworth 64
3 (5) 060- COMMENDATORE 132 D Elsworth 4-9-6 ... A Daly (3) –
4 (8) 340- GOODBYE GATEMEN 355 (G) A McNae 5-9-6 Martin Dwyer 47
5 (2) 0-63 HOH NAVIGATOR 92 D Ffrench Davis 4-9-6 R Painter [illegible]
6 (12) 0644 OUDALMUTEENA 12 V Soane 4-9-6 ... R Cochrane 72
7 (7) 30-0 WELCOME SUNSET 12 (S) J Wharton 4-9-6 P Robinson 90
8 (9) 00-0 CONTRARY MARY 15 (D,F) J Akehurst 4-9-3 ... A Clark 87
9 (1) 00-0 DORTON GRANGE 12 H Manners 4-9-3 ... J Quinn 64
10 (6) 050- FINAL DIVIDEND 214 M Fetherston-Godley 3-8-7 F Norton 74
11 (10) 00-2 SPLIT THE ACES 12 R Hodges 3-8-7 ... T Sprake 66
12 (11) 420- GOLDEN CHARM 186 (G) J Banks 3-8-4 ... S Sanders 77

7-2 Oudalmuteena, 4-1 Indian Blaze, 6-1 Contrary Mary, 7-1 Cadw, Welcome Sunset, 8-1 Hoh Navigator, Final Dividend, 14-1 others.

4.00 NORMAN POOLE MEMORIAL MAIDEN STAKES (Div I: 3-Y-O: £3,111: 7f) (9)

1 (5) 0-0 COUNT FREDERICK 20 J Jenkins 9-0 ... J Fortune 35
2 (6) 3- DEMOCRACY 328 R Hannon 9-0 ... R Hughes 75
3 (2) 05-0 PETRUS 24 C Brittain 9-0 ... P Robinson [illegible]
4 (4) 5-06 RAINBOW ROMEO 63 J R Poulton 9-0 ... R Cochrane 56
5 (1) TALAUD I Balding 9-0 ... A Nicholls (5) –
6 (8) 5- TROIS 163 L Cumani 9-0 ... R Ffrench –
7 (7) 00- CABBAGE CRUSADER 175 P Gilligan 8-9 ... A Polli (3) 21
8 (9) 602- CINNAMON LADY 182 D Morris 8-9 ... N Day 71
9 (3) 00- SCENIC LADY 202 L A Dace 8-9 ... T G McLaughlin –

5-4 Democracy, 5-2 Trois, 11-2 Cinnamon Lady, 8-1 Talaud, 16-1 others.

4.30 NORMAN POOLE MEMORIAL MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: 3-Y-O: £3,111: 7f) (8)

1 (5) 246- COMPENSATION 164 M Jarvis 9-0 ... P Robinson [illegible]
2 (7) 0- HAYMAKER 164 I Balding 9-0 ... S Whitworth –
3 (2) KALANISI L Cumani 9-0 ... R Ffrench –
4 (3) PADOUKI B Pearce 9-0 ... Martin Dwyer –
5 (6) 0-0 REYNOLDS 15 R Charlton 9-0 ... R Hughes 41
6 (1) 6- DORISSIO 351 I Balding 8-9 ... A Nicholls (5) –
7 (8) 0-6 FACE THE CLASS 20 A Kelleway 8-9 ... J Quinn 53
8 (4) 00- MELLOW MISS 172 R Flower 8-9 ... R Price 53

9-4 Compensation, 5-2 Kalanisi, 3-1 Reynolds, 10-1 Haymaker, 12-1 others.

5.05 DOVER APPRENTICE HANDICAP
(£2,979: 1m 4f) (14)

1 (6) 55-0 EMERALD HUNTER 12 P McEntee 4-10-0 D Meernagh (3) 68
2 (11) 03-2 IMPERIAL PRINCE 13 S Woods 4-9-13 ... G Faulkner 68
3 (1) 300- PAY HOMAGE 208 (D,F,G) I Balding 11-9-9 Leanne Masterton (10) 68
4 (2) 04-0 LUCKY BEGONIA 29 (D,S) A Carroll 6-9-7 C Carver (3) 62
5 (7) 50-0 VIDAME 69 R Flower 4-9-4 ... P Dobbs (3) 54
6 (13) 0-30 MANTLES PRINCESS 22 G Lewis 4-9-0 P Fredericks (3) 75
7 (10) 00-0 SILVER GYRE 18 D Wintle 3-8-11 Joanna Badger (10) 56
8 (4) 240- ZIGGY STARDUST 176 Mrs Bowlby 4-8-10 A Nicholls (3) [illegible]
9 (9) 0-00 URGENT REPLY 19 (T,D,S) C Dwyer 6-8-9 J Bosband (6) 60
10 (3) 620- DOCTOR BRAVIOUS 36J (B) J R Poulton 6-8-8 R Mullen 69
11 (14) 33-0 NEEDWOOD SPITFIRE 22 B Morgan 4-8-7 ... A Daly 63
12 (5) -000 LUCKY MYST 63 C Brittain 4-8-6 ... N Esler (10) 60
13 (5) 0-36 GOLDEN ACE 13 (B,T,G,S) R Spicer 6-8-6 S Carson (3) 61
14 (12) R04- ESTERELLE 194J H Manners 4-7-10 ... – 52

3-1 Imperial Prince, 5-1 Golden Ace, 6-1 Needwood Spitfire, 7-1 Urgent Reply, 8-1 Pay Homage, Doctor Bravious, 12-1 Lucky Begonia, 16-1 others.

5.35 TIM FREEMAN HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,484: 1m 1f 149yd) (15)

1 (3) 4453 SWAMPY 20 N Callaghan 9-7 ... R Ffrench 52
2 (2) 6321 LUCKY NEMO 20 (C,S) C Brittain 9-7 ... P Robinson 35
3 (15) -306 GOODBYE GOLDSTONE 14 T Naughton 9-4 ... F Norton 54
4 (9) 031- CEDAR WELLS 134 G Lewis 9-3 ... N Day 54
5 (11) 200- GOLDEN RAINBOW 193 B Millman 9-2 ... T Sprake 55
6 (12) 000- LUCKY RED 125 Pat Mitchell 9-1 ... A Clark 54
7 (8) 060- OVER THE MARCH 189 J Banks 8-13 ... D McGaffin (7) 43
8 (5) 0-00 SHARP LOVE 6 M Ryan 8-13 ... P McCabe 43
9 (7) 0-06 MARCH PARTY 15 J Portman 8-11 ... S Carson (5) 47
10 (14) 000- VERPOSEN 154 (T) J Pearce 8-11 ... A Polli (3) [illegible]
11 (13) 00-0 STORMIN 19 D Wintle 8-10 ... Joanna Badger (7) 34
12 (1) 00-0 KINGFISHERS BONNET 8 S Knight 8-9 ... R Havlin 50
13 (6) 600- NOM FRANCAIS 171 R Guest 8-5 ... J F Egan 34
14 (10) 00-5 WELSH ASSEMBLY 20 G Enright 7-10 ... A Nicholls (5) 60
15 (4) 60-0 BISHOPSTONE POND 13 S Mellor 7-10 D Meernagh (5) 36

3-1 Lucky Nemo, 7-2 Cedar Wells, 4-1 Swampy, 8-1 Goodbye Goldstone, Welsh Assembly, 10-1 Golden Rainbow, 14-1 Over The March, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: L Cumani, 4 winners from 11 runners, 36.4%; N Callaghan, 8 from 32, 25.0%; D Elsworth, 7 from 32, 21.9%; D Arbuthnot, 6 from 29, 20.7%; B Smart, 5 from 30, 16.7%; C Brittain, 8 from 62, 12.9%; B Millman, 3 from 24, 12.5%; R Hannon, 15 from 124, 12.1%.

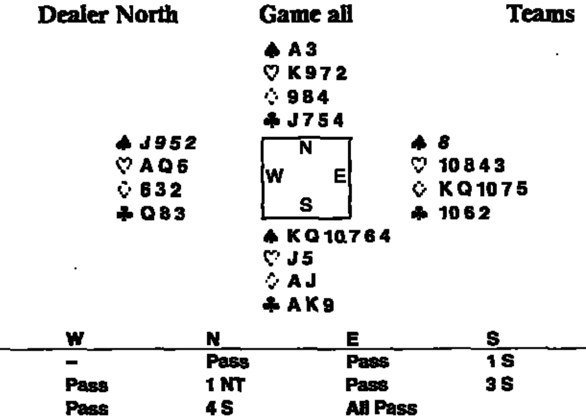
JOCKEYS: F Norton, 5 winners from 34 rides, 14.7%; R Hughes, 7 from 48, 14.6%; R Ffrench, 7 from 50, 14.0%; T Sprake, 13 from 95, 13.7%; S Sanders, 18 from 150, 12.0%; Martin Dwyer, 8 from 67, 11.9%; R Mullen, 3 from 26, 11.5%; N Pollard, 3 from 26, 11.5%; S Whitworth, 8 from 72, 11.1%.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

On today's hand there are two issues to bear in mind: the first is that trumps may break badly; the second is that even if they split, you have only nine top tricks. You need to develop an extra trick in either clubs or hearts, and the timing on the hand is not at all easy. You cannot afford to focus on one issue to the exclusion of the other.

Dealer North **Game all** **Teams**



North: ♠ A 3 ♡ K 9 7 2 ♢ 9 8 4 ♣ J 7 5 4
West: ♠ J 9 5 2 ♡ A Q 6 ♢ 6 3 2 ♣ Q 8 3
East: ♠ 8 ♡ 10 8 4 3 ♢ K Q 10 7 5 ♣ 10 6 2
South: ♠ K Q 10 7 6 4 ♡ J 5 ♢ A J ♣ A K 9

W	N	E	S
–	Pass	Pass	1 S
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 S
Pass	4 S	All Pass	

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: three of diamonds.

In the international teams match between Brazil and the Netherlands at the Forbo Tournament in the Netherlands, Zia was playing as a ringer for Brazil. The unsuccessful declarer for the Netherlands got a diamond lead to his contract of Four Spades and immediately played on trumps, assuming that he needed something favourable to develop in either hearts or clubs. When the trumps failed to split he had no chance. He actually played four rounds of trumps, but West got off play with the ace and queen of hearts, and declarer now had to lose one trick in each suit.

By contrast, Zia won the diamond lead and played the jack of hearts, a thoughtful play designed to try to build a heart trick as he needed a home for his potential club loser. West took his ace of hearts and played a second diamond which East won to switch to a club. Zia won the ace of clubs, played a spade to the ace and carefully ruffed a diamond in hand before playing a second top spade.

When the 4-1 trump break came to light, Zia continued with a heart to the king and a heart ruff, after which he could cash the king of clubs and exit with a third club. When West had to take the trick, he was forced to lead from his jack of spades into Zia's tenace and Zia had avoided losing a trump trick.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Opening problems

The Indian grandmaster, Viswanathan Anand, once considered the most likely challenger to Garry Kasparov's world throne, had a below par performance at the Dos Hermanas tournament in Spain. A major contributory factor to his problems was the lack of effectiveness of his black defences. In today's game, Anand tries to improve on Kasparov - Ivanchuk from Linares earlier this year, but still succumbs in spite of his innovative play.

White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: *Viswanathan Anand*
Dos Hermanas 1999
Queens Gambit Accepted

	White	Black
1	d4	d5
2	c4	dxc4
3	Nf3	e6
4	e3	Nf6
5	Bxc4	c5
6	0-0	a6
7	Bb3	cxd4
8	exd4	Nc6
9	Nc3	Be7
10	Re1	0-0
11	a3	Na5
12	Bc2	b5
13	d5	Re8
14	Bg5	h6
15	Bh4	Nxd5
16	Nxd5	exd5
17	Qd3	g6
18	Qe3	Be6
19	Qxh6	Bxh4
20	Bxg6	Qf6
21	Bh7+	Kh8
22	Bg6+	Kg8
23	Qh7+	Kf8
24	Nxh4	Qg7
25	Qxg7+	Kxg7
26	Bd3	Nc4
27	b4	Nb2
28	Bf1	d4
29	Nf3	Rad8
30	Reb1	Nc4
31	Rd1	Bg4
32	Rd3	Nb2
33	Rxd4	Bxf3
34	Rxd8	Rxd8
35	gxf3	Rc8
36	Ra2	Na4
37	Rd2	Rc6
38	f4	Nb6
39	Kg2	Nc4
40	Rd3	Nb2
41	Rg3+	Kh8
42	Be2	Rc2
43	Bh5	Rc7
44	f5	Kh7
45	Be2	Kh6
46	h4	Rc2
47	Bf3	Nc4
48	Bd5	Nd6
49	Rd3	Kg7
50	Bf3	Nxf5
51	Bb7	Nxh4+
52	Kg1	Re2
53	Bxa6	Re5
54	Rc3	Nf5
55	Rc5	Rxc5
56	bxc5	Nd4
57	c6	Nxc6
58	Bxb5	Na5
59	Kg2	Kf6
60	Kf3	Ke5
61	Ke3	Nb7
62	Bc4	f6
63	a4	Na5
64	Bf7	Nc6
65	Kd3	Kd6
66	Ke4	Ne7
67	a5	Kc5
68	a6	Nc8
69	Bh5	Kd6
70	Bf3	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

NOME
a. A female elf
b. A piece of music
c. A denial or repudiation

PAPALINA
a. A female Roman Catholic
b. A butterfly
c. A verse metre

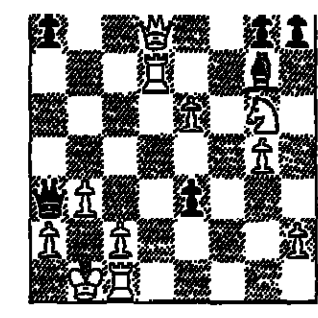
PINLOCK
a. A knot
b. A kind of rowlock
c. An animal fee

OPSONY
a. A relish
b. Pride in being tardy
c. An organ stop

Answers on page 54

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



White to play. This position is from the game Teske - Dur, Austria 1998.

Although rather boxed in, the black king seems well protected. However, White now found a clever sequence that ultimately forced a decisive win of material. What did he play?

Solution on page 54

Davids proclaims message to strike rivals with dread

Matt Dickinson in Turin finds a tormented midfield player finally at peace with himself

There are so many tales of brawling with strangers, insulting journalists, feuding with coaches and generally wreaking havoc that it is easy to forget just how wonderfully talented Edgar Davids is. Perhaps that is why he reminds the world at every opportunity.

"It is an honour to play with Zidane," the Dutchman said recently, "but then he feels the same about me." Indeed, anyone who has spent five minutes with him has a different story of his breathtaking conceit. "My name is Edgar Davids," he told a baffled Richard Krajicek, the tennis player, years ago in an Amsterdam bar, "and you'll be hearing more from me." But he has the ability to match the ego.

While Zidane prompted well-deserved paeans for his performance on one leg at Old Trafford in the European Cup semi-final, first leg, it was Davids who was the dynamo for Juventus. A midfield colossus at his present peak of form, he is equipped with the pace of a sprinter, the physique of a middleweight boxer, the stamina of a marathon runner and a left foot that most footballers would kill for. As for what goes on inside his head, no one knows.

Until his move to Juventus two years ago, his mood swings were as violent as his tackles. He did not play for his country for two years after telling Guus Hiddink, the Holland coach, during Euro 96 that he had his head shoved up other players' backsides, while his transfer to AC Milan from Ajax, with whom he won the European Cup in 1995 and lost in the final in 1996, threatened to push a tempestuous man over the edge.

When two hoodlums made the mistake of trying to mug him at a set of traffic lights in Milan, he leapt out of his Porsche and gave the pair of them a good hiding — Keane and Scholes know the feeling — and while he won that little fight, he was losing the battle with his own explosive temper that was not helped by a broken leg.

"Going to Milan was a mistake," Davids, 26, said, "and I don't like to talk about my experiences there. It was a bad time, the most bitter period of my career at club level and like my feelings of despair at Euro 96. But I tried to use it all in a positive manner and it has allowed me to mature and change as a person. It told me that being a world-class footballer is about handling yourself at all times."

> 'It would be foolhardy to say that he has mellowed entirely'

It would be foolhardy to say that Davids has mellowed entirely, but there are signs at least that he has conquered some of his demons. Now vice-captain of his country, he appears to have found, in Turin, a city in which he enjoys the pace of life and, in Juventus, a team that he feels is worthy of his skills. Marcello Lippi is rumoured to want to take him to Internazionale this summer, but he questions why he should leave the club "that has finally made me fulfilled" and with whom he is hoping to play his fourth European Cup final in five years.

His football is flourishing, his rage is calmed, but his superiority complex remains wonderfully intact, as he proved in dismissing Beckham, Giggs and Keane with typical disdain. "Manchester United are supposed to have the best midfield in Europe," he said, "but we had the better of them at Old Trafford. We were like a steam train running over them. I have no fears of them any more. I want to get at them again. The higher the stakes, the tougher the fight, the better overall feeling I get. I can produce. I am a winner."

He will be a winner tomorrow unless the United camp work out a better strategy than in the first leg, when Davids and Deschamps ran the game because Keane was preoccupied by the deep-lying Zidane. The Irishman can be expected to push forward more tomorrow, which will ensure some midfield sparks.

"You English have this obsession with a warrior's spirit," Davids said. "Our coach reminds us every day that Ferguson's team will not give up until the last seconds in Turin. He will fire them up, make sure they come at us like madmen. It will be tough, but we know what to expect."

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, has talked of his team being ready to eat people, but in Davids, whose nicknames vary from the pit bull to the piranha, Juventus have a footballer who will readily bite back. Do not watch it alone.

RICHARD SELLERS



Shouting the odds: Davids has displayed the skills with Juventus to match his bullish character

Trouble and strife dogs Zidane's preparation

By Matt Dickinson and Stephen Wood

ZINEDINE ZIDANE'S hopes of leaving Juventus this summer appeared to have improved considerably yesterday after an extraordinary outburst from Gianni Agnelli, the club's owner, in which the multi-millionaire accused Zidane of being under the thumb. It would, at least, explain Zidane's expanding bald spot.

The timing of Agnelli's attack is baffling, given that Zidane is vital to Juventus's hopes of beating Manchester United tomorrow in the European Cup semi-final second leg, but he appears to have lost patience with the France international, who has admitted that his wife wants to move to a city by the sea.

Juventus will have no shortage of offers for Zidane, 26, who has three years left on his contract and would cost at least £18 million, but Agnelli is bitter nonetheless. "Zidane is not suffering from homesickness, he is suffering because he is under the control of his wife," he said. "I took him aside and asked him: 'Who is the boss: you or your wife?' He told me that, since they have had two sons, his wife was in charge."

Juventus have a history of selling players at their peak and they are unlikely to keep Zidane against his wishes. Alessandro Del Piero, 24, who is absent with a long-term injury, is also expected to depart. Agnelli hinted yesterday that Del Piero might follow Lippi, the former Juventus coach, to Internazionale.

It is probably wishful thinking for United to hope that the row between Zidane and his club will detract from his performance tomorrow night. United must score in Turin after the 1-1 draw in the first leg and Alex Ferguson, the manager, is hopeful that Ryan Giggs will recover from his injury in time to play. Giggs is still struggling with the ankle problem that he sustained last Wednesday, towards the end of United's FA Cup semi-final victory over Arsenal at Villa Park. The Wales international has not trained properly since, but he was due to fly out to Turin with the rest of the United party this morning.

Gullit bans Cup talk

By George Caulkin

IT HAS long been assumed that the monochrome similarity between the club's shirts and a feathered vertebrate is the reason for Newcastle United's traditional nickname. Once, perhaps, but no longer. Since Ruud Gullit replaced Kenny Dalglish as the Newcastle manager last autumn, the magpie has become an increasingly appropriate mascot.

Superstition is a familar friend to sportsman, but it has emerged that Gullit has taken precaution to another level. After bemoaning a club "curse", asking a priest to bless St James' Park and insisting that his side sport lucky white socks, Gullit has forbidden his players, ahead of the Final against Manchester United next month, from taking part in promotional work involving the FA Cup trophy.

Axa, the sponsors of the competition, had arranged a photo session with Robert Lee, the former Newcastle captain, six children representing the *Kits in the Community* programme and the same famous item of silverware Gullit won when at Chelsea two years ago. The three groups assembled at the County Durham training ground of the club yesterday, only to be turned away by one irate Dutchman.



Gullit: superstition

"We take the FA Cup all over the country and most people love to get their hands on it," Laurie Good, director of the firm that provides security for the trophy, said. "It was thought that to touch it would bring good luck. Superstition obviously comes into it as the Cup Final approaches, but I have never come across anything like this before."

Newcastle supporters are fast growing used to it. Gullit was pictured munching on a crucifix during the semi-final victory over Tottenham Hotspur. For Lee, the losing skipper in the final last year, the incident yesterday was a further setback. "I didn't touch the Cup last year either," he said. "I didn't get the chance."

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

■ John Hendrie has been dismissed as manager of Barnsley after less than a year in charge. Eric Winstanley has been installed as caretaker-manager, with Peter Shirtliff as his assistant, while the club, which is sixteenth in the Nationwide League first division, searches for a replacement.

■ The Football Association risked a charge of acting improperly yesterday when it announced that more than 2,000 children from 203 nations would receive an expenses-paid trip to see the 2006 World Cup, provided that England wins the vote to host the tournament. Sir Bobby Charlton, who is working to bring the World Cup to England, said: "We hope it is well received because it is an honest way to try to give something back to the game."

■ Karlheinz Riedle, the Liverpool striker, has agreed to stay at Anfield for one more season. The Germany international was preparing to play in the German League, but has had a change of heart.

■ Carsten Fredgaard, 22, the Danish midfield player, has completed a £1.8 million transfer to Sunderland, the first division champions.

■ Graeme Souness, the former Rangers and Liverpool manager, has been dismissed by Benfica and will be replaced by Jupp Heynckes, the Germany coach, at the end of the season. Souness, 45, who became coach of the club 18 months ago, said that he bore no ill-will towards the club.

■ Marco Delvecchio, the AS Roma striker, has discussed moving to Chelsea with Gianluca Vialli, the player-manager. Vialli is said to be keen on signing Delvecchio, 26, but believes that Roma's asking price is too high.

O'Neil earns recall

By Kevin McCarra

CRAIG BROWN has assembled a Scotland squad carefully for the international against Germany in Bremen next week, but other managers may prove just as diligent in dismantling it. Given the timing of the fixture, clubs around Great Britain have more reason than ever to resent the intrusion of international football and could find ingenious medical grounds for withdrawing players.

Of the 23 men named in the party yesterday, 16 earn their living in teams aspiring to a championship or attempting to flee the relegation zone. It would be natural if Celtic, Rangers, Aberdeen, Dundee, Dundee United, Heart of Midlothian, Everton and Blackburn Rovers were to cast a jaundiced eye over requests that their employees should divert energy to another cause.

Brown is used to unfavourable working conditions. After the 2-1 defeat by the Czech Republic in the European championship tie at Celtic Park, the manager has to accelerate his redevelopment of the side. With that purpose in mind, he has shunned some players who would normally merit selection.

Thus Colin Calderwood, who has revived Aston Villa since his move from Tottenham Hotspur, has not been restored to the party. "I was tempted," Brown said, "and if we had been playing for three points next week, I would have picked him." Instead, the place has gone to Brian O'Neil, 26, whose one cap came against Australia in 1996.

O'Neil was once considered to be a player of high promise, but injury and doubts over his best position placed an element of instability at the core of his career. With Vfl Wolfsburg, however, he has settled into a man-marking role.

Don Hutchison should make his debut in attack, where he will probably be partnered by Billy Dodds. The need for renovation in the forward line is great. With 22 goals from 134 international appearances, Lothar Matthäus, of Germany, has scored ten times more than the entire Scotland squad combined.

SCOTLAND: T Boyd (Celtic), **C Burley** (Celtic), **C Davidson** (Blackburn Rovers), **W Dodds** (Aberdeen), **R Douglas** (Dundee), **I Durrant** (Kilmarnock), **M Elliott** (Leicester City), **S Gemmill** (Everton), **C Hendry** (Rangers), **D Hopkin** (Leeds United), **Don Hutchison** (Everton), **E Jess** (Aberdeen), **A Johnston** (Sunderland), **P Lambert** (Celtic), **N McCann** (Rangers), **J McNamara** (Celtic), **A Main** (St Johnstone), **B O'Neil** (Vfl Wolfsburg), **P Ritchie** (Heart of Midlothian), **N Sullivan** (Wimbledon), **D Weir** (Heart of Midlothian), **R Winters** (Aberdeen), **D Whyte** (Aberdeen).

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Uefa Cup
Semi-finals, second legs
Bologna (0) v Marseilles (0) (6.30)
Parma (3) v Atletico Madrid (1) (8.30)

FA Carling Premiership
Charlton v Tottenham (7.45)

Nationwide League
First division
Birmingham v QPR (7.45)
Grimsby v Sheffield Utd (7.45)
Ipswich v Stockport (7.45)
Norwich v Bolton (7.45)
Port Vale v Watford (7.45)

Second division
Chesterfield v Bristol Rovers (7.45)
Northampton v Wigan (7.45)
Notts County v Macclesfield (7.45)
Preston v Walsall (7.45)
Wrexham v Gillingham
York v *Blackpool (7.45)*

Third division
Darlington v Exeter (7.45)
Halifax v Scunthorpe (7.45)
Shrewsbury v Rotherham (7.45)

Nationwide Conference
Cheltenham v Forest Green (7.45)
Leek v Welling (7.45)
Rushden and D v Kingstonian (7.45)

Scottish League
Premier division
Dundee Utd v St Johnstone (7.45)

ENDSLEIGH CHALLENGE TROPHY: Final, first leg: Farnborough v Doncaster (7.45)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: *Bath City v Boston (7.45)*, Cambridge City v Weymouth (7.45); Rothwell v Atherstone (7.45). Tamworth v Crawley. **Southern division:** Baldock v Margate; Bashley v Ashford. Havant and Waterlooville v Dartford, Newport (IoW) v Corby; Raunds T v Andover. Tonbridge Angels v St Leonards. Witney v Yate. **Midland division:** Cinderford v VS Rugby. Evesham v Bloxwich Town, Redditch v Sutton Coldfield Town. Stourbridge v Blakenall

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Blyth Spartans v Guiseley (7.45), Runcorn v Spennymoor; Stalybridge v Colwyn Bay; Whitby v Gateshead. **First division:** Alfreton v Hucknall Town, Eastwood Town v Matlock Town. Radcliffe v Droylsden. Stocksbridge PS v Whitley Bay; Trafford v Farsley Celtic

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Heybridge. Bishop's Stortford v Basingstoke (at Hitchin Town FC). Enfield v Hendon. Sutton United v Aldershot Tn. St Albans v Bromley. **First division:** Leatherhead v Wealdstone, Leyton Pennant v Berkhamsted. Oxford City v Romford, Wembley v Uxbridge. Whyteleafe v Hitchin. Worthing v Grays. **Second division:** Bracknell v Witham, Chalfont St Peter v Northwood, H *Hempstead* v Wivenhoe. Horsham v Harlow, Hungerford v Windsor and Eton. Leighton Town v Tooting and Mitcham. **Third division:** Aveley v Lewes. East Thurrock v Camberley Town. Egham v Corinthian-Casuals; Epsom and Ewell v Wingate & Finchley; Tilbury v Dorking

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Semi-final, first leg: West Ham United v Everton (7.0)

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: First division: Hartlepool v Scarborough (1.30). Northampton v Huddersfield (at Heckmondwike, 12.30). **Third division:** Grimsby v Burnley (1.0)

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Queens Park Rangers v Brighton (2.0); Southampton v Millwall (at Staplewood)

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Coventry v Wolverhampton (7.0), Grimsby v Manchester City (7.0)

LEAGUE OF WALES: Connah's Quay v Rhyl. Newtown v Conwy. Rhayader Town v Bangor City

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: First division: Ards v Larne (3.0). Ballyclare v Distillery (3.0); Carrick v Limavady (3.0). Dungannon Swifts v Bangor (3.0)

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Finn Harps v Sligo

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Dunston Federation v Chester-le-Street. Marske v Crook Town, Morpeth Town v Billingham.

TENNENTS HIGHLAND LEAGUE CUP: District one: Rothes v Peterhead (8.0). **District two:** Buckie Thistle v Huntly (8.0). Deveronvale v Cove (8.0). **District three:** Elgin v Forres Mechanics. Nairn County v Lossiemouth (8.0). **District four:** Brora v Wick Academy (8.0)

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare v Buxton, Arnold Town v Garforth Town, Liversedge v Pickering. Sheffield v Brigg Town.

CRICKET

PPP county championship
11.0, second day of four
104 overs minimum
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Somerset

11.0, first day of four
104 overs minimum
DERBY: Derbyshire v Glamorgan
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire
LORD'S: Middlesex v Lancashire
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Surrey

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Wigan St Patricks v Woolston (7.30)

RUGBY UNION

ANGLO-WELSH CLUB MATCH: Swansea v Bedford (7.30).

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NFL EUROPE: Scottish Claymores 21 Rhein Fire 20

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 1 Tampa Bay 5. Cleveland 3 Minnesota 2, Detroit 5 New York Yankees 1, Toronto 8 Baltimore 0. Kansas City 5 Chicago White Sox 7. Oakland 2 Texas 6.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinnati 2 Pittsburgh 4. Philadelphia 7 Florida 2. New York Mets 2 Montreal 4, Chicago Cubs 6 Milwaukee 5 (10 inns). Houston 8 St Louis 4: Colorado 5 Atlanta 20. Arizona 12 San Francisco 3. San Diego 4 Los Angeles 3

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New Jersey 86 Philadelphia 79; Washington 98 *Boston 101*, *Orlando 88 Detroit 81*; Phoenix 99 Seattle 93. Vancouver 85 Golden State 90: Miami 92 Indiana 88. San Antonio 88 Houston 83: Chicago 79 Milwaukee 77. Minnesota 76 Utah 97. Los Angeles 101 Denver 103

CRICKET

One-day international
West Indies v Australia

PORT OF SPAIN (Australia won toss) Australia beat West Indies by 20 runs

AUSTRALIA

† A C Gilchrist lbw b Walsh	25
M E Waugh b Ambrose	18
R T Ponting c Jacobs b Perry	7
D S Lehmann b Ambrose	12
*S R Waugh lbw b Dillon	16
M G Bevan not out	59
S Lee c Jacobs b Dillon	1
T M Moody b Dillon	4
B P Julian c Jacobs b Dillon	0
S K Warne run out	29
D W Fleming not out	0
Extras (b 5, lb 7, w 5, nb 1)	18
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	**189**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-39, 2-49, 3-68, 4-78, 5-91, 6-93, 7-103, 8-104, 9-181.
BOWLING: Ambrose 10-1-39-1; Walsh 10-0-37-2; Simmons 4.3-0-27-0; Dillon 10-5-20-4; Hooper 10-0-29-0; Perry 5.3-0-25-0

WEST INDIES

S L Campbell lbw b Fleming	13
† R D Jacobs run out	29
J C Adams run out	27
C L Hooper run out	23
*B C Lara b Warne	6
S C Williams b Warne	0
P V Simmons c Gilchrist b Lee	42
C E L Ambrose lbw b Warne	4
M Dillon b Fleming	2
N O Perry not out	6
C A Walsh b Lee	1
Extras (lb 4, w 8, nb 2)	14
Total (46.2 overs)	**169**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-27, 2-60, 3-90, 4-97, 5-103, 6-116, 7-135, 8-149, 9-166
BOWLING: Fleming 10-1-30-2; Julian 3-0-21-0; Warne 10-1-35-3; Moody 7-1-24-0; M E Waugh 5-0-16-0; S R Waugh 5-0-13-0; Lee 6.2-1-26-2

Umpires: S A Bucknor and B Morgan

GOLF

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina: MCI Classic: Leading final scores (United States unless stated). **274:** G Day 70, 68, 70, 66; J Sluman 72, 67, 68, 67, P Stewart 68, 64, 72, 70 (Day won play-off at first extra hole). *275: C Perry 69, 66, 68, 72.* **Other scores: 285:** N Faldo (GB) 69, 73, 67, 76. **287:** C Montgomerie (GB) 71, 67, 76, 73.

HOCKEY

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Men: Pool winners: A division: Surrey (at Lloyds Bank); *Cheshire (at Cannock)*; *Sussex (at* East Grinstead). Yorkshire (at Doncaster). **B division:** Northamptonshire (at Kettering). Channel Islands (at Leominster). Norfolk (at King's Lynn); RAF (at RAF Halton)

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Colorado 2 Dallas 1: Los Angeles 2 St Louis 3, New York Rangers 1 Pittsburgh 2 (OT). Philadelphia 3 Boston 1. Buffalo 3 Washington 0

MOTOR RACING

LLORET DE MAR, Spain: Rally of Catalonia: First day: 1, J Puras (Sp, Citroën) 1hr 27min 19.4sec. 2, P Bugalski (Fr, Citroën) at 7sec. 3, D Auriol (Fr, Toyota) 10.3. 4, C Sainz (Sp, Toyota) 17.4. 5, T Makinen (Fin, Mitsubishi) 34.3. 6, F Loix (Bel, Mitsubishi) 56.1. 7, R Burns (GB, Subaru) 1:10.3. 31, Colin McRae (GB, Ford Focus) 7:25.5

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB SUPER LEAGUE: Castleford Tigers 14 Gateshead Thunder 17

SNOOKER

THE CRUCIBLE, Sheffield: Embassy world championship: First round: J Parrott (Eng) bt T Murphy (N Ire) 10-8, K Doherty (Ire) bt S James (Eng) 10-3. C Small (Scot) bt A Hamilton (Eng) 10-9. T Drago *(Mal)* bt F O'Brien (Ire) 10-4. *N Bond (Eng)* bt D Dale (Wal) 10-6. J Higgins (Scot) bt G Greene (Eng) 10-2; N Walker (Eng) bt A Robidoux (Can) 10-6

SQUASH

HURGHADA, Egypt: WISPA World Grand Prix finals: Semi-finals: C Owens (Aus) bt N Grainger (SA) 9-6, 6-9, 3-9, 10-8, 9-7; M Martin (Aus) bt C Jackman (Eng) 9-5, 9-3, 10-9

TENNIS

FEDERATION CUP: World group one: *First round: Switzerland 5 Slovakia 0 (in Zurich)*, United States 5 Croatia 0 (in North Carolina). Italy 3 Spain 2 (in Reggio Calabria)
MONTE CARLO OPEN: First round: J Golmard (Fra) bt D Sanguinetti (Italy) 6-1 6-2; T Haas (Ger) bt M Safin (Russ) 6-4, 6-2. V Spadea (US) bt R Federer (Switz) 7-6 (7-3), 6-0; A Di Pasquale (Fra) bt A Berasategui (Spain) 7-6 (7-4), 5-7, 6-4. B Ulihrach (Czech) bt F Vicente (Spain) 6-2, 6-2. A Pavel (Rom) bt Y El Aynaoui (Mor) 6-4, 7-5; B Becker (Ger) bt C Pioline (Fra) 6-4, 5-7, 6-4. M Puerta (Arg) bt A Clement (Fra) 6-4, 6-2. F Meligeni (Brazil) bt A Ilie (Aus) 6-4, 5-7, 6-2; H Arazi (Mor) bt G Ivanisevic (Croatia) 6-1, 6-4

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday April 24
Coupon No, fixture, forecast

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

No	Fixture	Forecast
1	Aston Villa v Nott'm F	1
2	Blackburn v Liverpool	1
3	Derby v Southampton	1
4	Everton v Charlton	1
5	Leicester v Coventry	1
6	Middlesbro' v Arsenal	X
7	Tottenham v West Ham	2
8	Wimbledon v Newcastle	2
	NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION	
9	Bristol C v Birmingham	X
10	Hudd'field v Barnsley	1
11	Ipswich v Crewe	1
12	Oxford Utd v Norwich	1
13	Portsmouth v Stockport	X
14	Sunderland v Sheff Utd	1
15	Swindon v Grimsby	2
16	Tranmere v Port Vale	1
17	Watford v Crystal P	1
	SECOND DIVISION	
18	Blackpool v Bristol R	1
19	B'mouth v Chesterf'ld	1
20	*Fulham v Wrexham*	1
21	Lincoln v Walsall	2
22	Macclesfield v York	1
23	Man City v Wycombe	1
24	Millwall v Preston	1
25	North'pton v Colch'ter	X
26	Notts County v Luton	1
27	Oldham v Gillingham	X
28	Stoke v Burnley	2
29	Wigan v Reading	1
	THIRD DIVISION	
30	Brighton v Hull	X
31	Camb'ge v Peterboro'	2
32	Carlisle v Darlington	2
33	Chester v Halifax	2
34	Exeter v Rochdale	1
35	Leyton O v Shr'sbury	1
36	Mansf'ld v Hartlepool	X
37	Scarborough v Cardiff	2
38	Scunthorpe v Barnet	1
39	Southend v Brentford	X
	SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE	
40	Dundee v Kilmarnock	X
41	Dunf'mline v D'dee U	2
42	Motherwell v Hearts	1
43	*Rangers v Aberdeen	1
44	St Johnstone v Celtic	2
	SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISON	
45	Ayr v Falkirk	2
46	Clydebank v Airdrie	2
47	Hamilton v Raith	X
48	Hibernian v G Morton	1
49	St Mirren v Stranraer	1

* Pools Panel to adjudicate

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Middlesbrough, Bristol City, Portsmouth, Northampton, Oldham, Brighton, Mansfield, Southend, Dundee, Hamilton.
BEST DRAWS: Bristol City, Portsmouth, Oldham, Brighton, Southend
AWAYS: West Ham, Newcastle, Walsall, Halifax, Cardiff
HOMES: Aston Villa, Leicester, Huddersfield, Ipswich, Sunderland, Watford, Blackpool, Notts County, Scunthorpe
FIXED ODDS: Homes: Aston Villa, Leicester, Watford, Notts County, Scunthorpe. **Aways:** West Ham, Walsall, Halifax. **Draws:** Portsmouth, Brighton, Southend.

Vince Wright





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THE TIMES FANTASY LEAGUE CRICKET WORLD CUP ENTRY FORM

Complete this form and post it to: *The Times* Fantasy League Cricket World Cup, Abacus House, Dudley St, Luton LU1 1ZZ. UK and RoI readers must enclose a cheque for £2.50 Sterling (£10 ex UK & RoI), payable to Times Newspapers Ltd, or give their credit/debit card details. To qualify for the start of the Cricket World Cup entries must be received by first post Thursday May 13, 1999

Title .... *Initials* .... Surname ....
IN BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE
Address ....
....
Postcode .... Day Tel ....

TEAM NAME (No more than 16 characters)

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

LUCKY DIP If you wish to have your team selected by us at random, tick box ☐

A MAXIMUM OF TWO PLAYERS FROM ANY ONE COUNTRY ALLOWED

CODE **PLAYER'S NAME**

BATSMEN (Select 4)

☐☐☐ ....
☐☐☐ ....
☐☐☐ ....
☐☐☐ ....

ALL-ROUNDERS (Select 2)

☐☐☐ ....
☐☐☐ ....

CODE **PLAYER'S NAME**

BOWLERS (Select 4)

☐☐☐ ....
☐☐☐ ....
☐☐☐ ....
☐☐☐ ....

WICKETKEEPER (Select 1 only)

☐☐☐ ....

Credit Card Payment Card number:

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Expiry date ☐☐ ☐☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐

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4. Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?

HOW TO ENTER YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM

Select a team of 11 players – four batsmen, four bowlers, two all-rounders and a wicketkeeper. A maximum of two players from any one country are allowed in your team at any time (see transfers below). **TO ENTER BY PHONE** call our 24-hour hotline **0640 67 88 96 (+44 870 901 4210** ex UK) and follow the instructions. 0640 calls cost 60p a minute, last about six minutes and must be made on a touch-tone DTFM phone. Give the name of your team (max 16 characters) and the three-digit codes of your 11 players. You will receive a PIN number so you can make transfers and check your scores. To qualify for the start of the tournament telephone entries must be made by 10am on Friday May 14. **TO ENTER BY POST** complete the entry form, left, and include a £2.50 sterling entry fee (£10 ex UK & RoI). To qualify for the start of the *Cricket World Cup postal entries must arrive by Thursday May 13.* All entrants will receive a confirmation letter by post, showing their team and PIN number, 7-10 days after their entry is received. You cannot make transfers until you receive your PIN

HOW YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM WILL SCORE POINTS

SCORING SYSTEM Every player in your team is awarded or deducted points for runs scored, wickets taken, catches and stumpings, as follows:

BATTING
Every 10 runs in an innings .... 1 pt
Every 50 runs in an innings .... 3 bonus pts
(eg A score of 50 will be awarded 5 points plus 3 bonus points: a total of 8 points)
Every player out for less than 5 runs (excl bowlers) .... -1 pt
Every player out for 0 runs (excl bowlers) .... -2 pts

BOWLING
For every wicket taken .... 2 pts
There are also bonus points awarded or lost according to Economy Rate (runs conceded per over ratio)
Bowlers can score bonus points for low economy rates and lose them for high ones. The economy rate is an indication of how good a bowler is at not letting batsmen score runs against him. So, by taking the number of runs scored by the opposition during a bowler's match overs and dividing them by the number *of overs bowled, an economy rate is established. A low* economy rate will gain you points while a high one will lose you points. A bowler must bowl a minimum of five overs to qualify.
Bowler with an economy rate of 3.00 runs or under .... 5 pts
Bowler with an economy rate of 3.01 runs to 4.00 runs .... 2 pts
Bowler with an economy rate of 4.01 runs to 5.00 runs .... 0 pts
Bowler with an economy rate of 5.01 runs to 6.00 runs .... -1 pt
Bowler with an economy rate of 6.01 runs or above .... -2 pts
(e.g. A bowler taking 4 for 30 in 10 overs, an economy rate of 3.00 runs per over, will be awarded 8 points plus 5 bonus points a total of 13 points)

FIELDING
For every catch .... 1 pt For each stumping .... 2 pts

HOW TO MAKE TRANSFERS

Managers can make transfers to strengthen their teams. From now until the start of the tournament at 10am on May 14, you can make as many changes to your team as you like by calling the 24-hour transfer line on **0640 62 51 25 (+44 870 901 4296** ex UK) with your PIN to hand. Follow the instructions on the line. Your transfers must result in a new team in the correct format. From the start of the tournament until the start of the Super Six stage at 10am on June 4 you can make a further six team changes. After this you cannot make any further changes to your team. Changes made by 10am on any particular day will become active for matches from that day onwards. If changes are made after 10am then they will become active from the following day's matches



All information provided by Fantasy League Ltd ®

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CHOOSE YOUR TEAM FROM THE FOLLOWING PLAYERS

Columns show: code, name, country, one day *internationals, runs and wickets up to April 17*

Code	Name	Country	ODIs	Runs	Wickets
BATSMEN					
101	Mark Waugh	AUS	177	6187	80
102	Michael Bevan	AUS	100	3346	30
103	Ricky Ponting	AUS	69	2515	1
104	Darren Lehmann	AUS	41	1276	8
105	Damien Martyn	AUS	33	629	1
106	Akram Khan	BAN	26	618	0
107	Shahriar Hossain	BAN	10	214	0
108	Mehrab Hossain	BAN	5	207	0
109	Faruk Ahmed	BAN	5	89	0
110	Graeme Hick	ENG	91	3112	21
111	Neil Fairbrother	ENG	70	2035	0
112	Graham Thorpe	ENG	48	1661	2
113	Nick Knight	ENG	44	1619	0
114	Nasser Hussain	ENG	28	550	0
115	Mohammad Azharuddin	IND	315	8949	12
116	Sachin Tendulkar	IND	211	7801	78
117	Ajay Jadeja	IND	164	4361	19
118	Sourav Ganguly	IND	99	3509	32
119	Rahul Dravid	IND	80	2367	1
120	Amay Khurasiya	IND	4	71	0
121	Sadagopan Ramesh	IND	7	189	0
122	Steve Tikolo	KEN	25	688	17
123	Hitesh Modi	KEN	25	533	0
124	Deepak Chudasama	KEN	19	432	0
125	Alpesh Vader	KEN	11	102	0
126	Ravindu Shah	KEN	8	279	0
127	Sandip Gupta	KEN	7	119	0
128	Stephen Fleming	NZL	100	2848	1
129	Craig McMillan	NZL	39	911	16
130	Roger Twose	NZL	36	969	4
131	Matthew Horne	NZL	36	641	0
132	Salim Malik	PAK	279	7150	89
133	Ijaz Ahmed	PAK	226	5988	5
134	Inzamam-Ul-Haq	PAK	182	5867	2
135	Saeed Anwar	PAK	170	6172	5
136	Yousuf Youhana	PAK	20	576	0
137	Wajahatullah Wasti	PAK	3	86	3
138	Jonty Rhodes	SAF	151	3572	0
139	Daryll Cullinan	SAF	113	3414	5
140	Gary Kirsten	SAF	103	3815	0
141	Herschelle Gibbs	SAF	27	606	0
142	Dale Benkenstein	SAF	10	194	0
143	George Salmond	SCO	9	253	0
144	Ian Philip	SCO	9	205	0
145	Mike Smith	SCO	8	161	0
146	Bruce Patterson	SCO	0	0	0
147	Arjuna Ranatunga	SRI	263	7295	79
148	Aravinda De Silva	SRI	253	7965	83
149	Roshan Mahanama	SRI	208	5026	0
150	Hashan Tillakaratne	SRI	180	3439	6
151	Marvin Atapattu	SRI	68	2022	0
152	Mahela Jayawardene	SRI	19	480	1
153	Brian Lara	WIN	140	5623	2
154	Keith Arthurton	WIN	101	1882	41
155	Jimmy Adams	WIN	77	1190	22
156	Shivnarine Chanderpaul	WIN	63	1916	12
157	Stuart Williams	WIN	49	1531	1
158	Sherwin Campbell	WIN	41	1013	0
159	Alistair Campbell	ZIM	97	2483	8
160	Murray Goodwin	ZIM	31	846	3
161	Stuart Carlisle	ZIM	12	206	0
WICKETKEEPERS					
201	Adam Gilchrist	AUS	54	1722	0
202	Khaled Mashud	BAN	20	155	0
203	Jahangir Alam	BAN	3	4	0
204	Alec Stewart	ENG	120	3253	0
205	Nayan Mongia	IND	132	1222	0
206	Kennedy Otieno	KEN	25	745	0
207	Adam Parore	NZL	114	2670	0
208	Moin Khan	PAK	129	1895	0
209	Mark Boucher	SAF	30	198	0
210	Alec Davies	SCO	8	74	0
211	Ramesh Kaluwitharana	SRI	112	1930	0
212	Ridley Jacobs	WIN	19	103	0
213	Andy Flower	ZIM	105	3197	0
ALL-ROUNDERS					
301	Steve Waugh	AUS	254	5718	186
302	Tom Moody	AUS	59	1015	37
303	Shane Lee	AUS	19	219	16
304	Aminul Islam	BAN	26	568	5
305	Khaled Mahmud	BAN	11	188	11
306	Naimur Rahman	BAN	11	167	5
307	Neeyamur Rashid	BAN	1	4	1
308	Adam Hollioake	ENG	32	600	31
309	Mark Ealham	ENG	34	441	36
310	Vince Wells	ENG	9	141	8
311	Ian Austin	ENG	7	34	3
312	Andrew Flintoff	ENG	4	85	5
313	Robin Singh	IND	80	1338	46
314	Maurice Odumbe	KEN	25	593	19
315	Thomas Odoyo	KEN	24	275	20
316	Tony Suji	KEN	13	143	5
317	Jimmy Kamande	KEN	0	0	0
318	Chris Harris	NZL	127	2316	121
319	Chris Cairns	NZL	101	2340	93
320	Nathan Astle	NZL	82	2768	54
321	Wasim Akram	PAK	265	2676	371
322	Shahid Afridi	PAK	82	1912	53
323	Azhar Mahmood	PAK	60	606	53
324	Hansie Cronje	SAF	159	4825	101
325	Shaun Pollock	SAF	70	1005	103
326	Jacques Kallis	SAF	65	2127	44
327	Lance Klusener	SAF	53	1307	73
328	Derek Crookes	SAF	24	243	15
329	Greg Williamson	SCO	9	171	10
330	Mike Allingham	SCO	5	71	7
331	Iain Stanger	SCO	0	0	0
332	Gavin Hamilton	SCO	0	0	0
333	Sanath Jayasuriya	SRI	178	4672	152
334	Upul Chandana	SRI	50	539	47
335	Chandika Hathurusinghe	SRI	35	669	14
336	Carl Hooper	WIN	179	4573	162
337	Phil Simmons	WIN	136	3605	76
338	Henderson Bryan	WIN	3	6	4
339	Grant Flower	ZIM	92	3080	41
340	Paul Strang	ZIM	72	955	79
341	Guy Whittall	ZIM	72	1509	49
342	Neil Johnson	ZIM	14	500	9
343	Dirk Viljoen	ZIM	12	148	6
BOWLERS					
401	Shane Warne	AUS	111	528	174
402	Glenn McGrath	AUS	86	49	122
403	Paul Reiffel	AUS	85	502	99
404	Damien Fleming	AUS	47	32	78
405	Adam Dale	AUS	24	56	27
406	Brendon Julian	AUS	20	164	22
407	Hasibal Hussain	BAN	20	122	22
408	Mohammad Rafique	BAN	16	237	15
409	Enamul Hoque	BAN	16	91	7
410	Shafiuddin Ahmed	BAN	8	27	10
411	Manzurul Islam	BAN	1	1	1
412	Darren Gough	ENG	60	300	97
413	Robert Croft	ENG	42	287	40
414	Angus Fraser	ENG	39	123	46
415	Alan Mullally	ENG	24	45	28
416	Anil Kumble	IND	167	531	224
417	Javagal Srinath	IND	161	678	220
418	Venkatesh Prasad	IND	111	143	134
419	Ajit Agarkar	IND	36	215	68
420	Debashish Mohanty	IND	20	9	20
421	Nikhil Chopra	IND	14	97	10
422	Asif Karim	KEN	25	167	23
423	Martin Suji	KEN	23	48	17
424	Mohammed Sheikh	KEN	15	35	17
425	Joseph Angara	KEN	4	6	2
426	Gavin Larsen	NZL	113	599	107
427	Dion Nash	NZL	58	435	47
428	Simon Doull	NZL	40	172	34
429	Daniel Vettori	NZL	38	188	27
430	Geoff Allott	NZL	13	14	23
431	Matthew Hart	NZL	11	49	13
432	Carl Bulfin	NZL	3	9	0
433	Waqar Younis	PAK	172	537	283
434	Mushtaq Ahmed	PAK	130	343	144
435	Saqlain Mushtaq	PAK	98	469	187
436	Abdul Razzaq	PAK	14	105	14
437	Shoaib Akhtar	PAK	16	52	27
438	Allan Donald	SAF	112	73	190
439	Nicky Boje	SAF	18	74	17
440	Steve Elworthy	SAF	15	15	20
441	Makhaya Ntini	SAF	1	0	2
442	Keith Sheridan	SCO	8	9	12
443	John Blain	SCO	4	13	7
444	James Brinkley	SCO	0	0	0
445	Asim Butt	SCO	0	0	0
446	Nick Dyer	SCO	0	0	0
447	Peter Steindl	SCO	0	0	0
448	Muttiah Muralitharan	SRI	110	151	151
449	Pram'ya Wickramasinghe	SRI	110	236	87
450	Chaminda Vaas	SRI	107	506	135
451	Ruwan Kalpage	SRI	85	831	73
452	Eric Upashantha	SRI	4	13	4
453	Courtney Walsh	WIN	186	294	204
454	Curtly Ambrose	WIN	159	611	210
455	Mervyn Dillon	WIN	12	18	14
456	Reon King	WIN	10	38	11
457	Nehemiah Perry	WIN	2	9	4
458	Heath Streak	ZIM	73	809	89
459	Eddo Brandes	ZIM	56	383	69
460	Andrew Whittall	ZIM	44	140	38
461	Adam Huckle	ZIM	16	9	6
462	Mpumelelo Mbangwa	ZIM	15	24	7
463	Henry Olonga	ZIM	7	6	8

SNOOKER

Doherty lets maximum opportunity through his hands

BY PHIL YATES

KEN DOHERTY is never more keenly focused than when competing at the Crucible Theatre. Many players are intimidated by the very thought of it, but Doherty, the winner of the Embassy world championship in 1997 and the runner-up last year, is inspired.

"This is what it's all about — pressure-cooker stuff," Doherty said after completing a 10-3 first-round victory over Steve James yesterday. Doherty, who will meet Nigel Bond for a place in the quarter-finals, was sharp, confident and, totally at ease. Indeed, it would have been an ideal introduction to the most important event of his year had it not been for a costly misjudgment in the twelfth frame.

Leading 8-3, Doherty potted 13 reds with blacks to foster realistic hope of compiling his first 147 break in competition. The timing would have been impeccable, considering the £20,000 highest-break award and £147,000 maximum-break bonus available.

A record seven 147s have been compiled in various professional tournaments this season, but only four have been constructed at the Crucible since it first hosted the championship in 1977. Thus, the desire to emulate Cliff Thorburn, Jimmy White, Stephen Hendry and Ronnie O'Sullivan remains strong.

The open colours suggested that Doherty was poised to achieve the perfect run. However, in potting the thirteenth black, he surrendered position and was forced to try a speculative double on the fourteenth red to a middle pocket. Expensively, it caught the far jaw and remained on the table.

"I was thinking about the maximum from the moment I potted the third red," Doherty said. "It's not very often that you get handed an opportunity as good as that, so I'm disappointed about letting it slip."

Marco Fu, of Hong Kong, possesses immense potential, but he is short on experience. This strength and weakness were both apparent during the first session of a match against James Wattana, of Thailand, billed as the unofficial championship of Asia.

Fu, 21, has still to complete a full season as a professional and consequently has much to absorb. He constructed the three highest breaks of the session — 74, 82 and 56 — but still trails Wattana 5-4 entering the concluding phase this morning.

While Wattana, a former world No 3, who has lost nine of 13 matches during a miserable season, is not the most patient player, his approach was far more conservative than that of Fu, who more than once crossed the thin line between acceptable aggression and recklessness.

Nick Walker, of Chester, the world No 71, who has, at times, resorted to supplementing his snooker income with delivery and bar work, guaranteed himself at least £18,350 by beating Alain Robidoux, the No 12 seed, from Canada, 10-6. That figure is double Walker's previous biggest cheque in eight years as a professional.

Robidoux reached the semi-finals of the world championship two years ago, but his cue was vandalised beyond repair that summer and his form has never recovered. However, he will return next season having found a replacement cue with which he feels comfortable.


Doherty: through to last 16

LINKS
WEBSITE:
www.embassysnooker.com - official tournament site.
TELEVISION: BBC2, 1.10, 3.30, 6.45, and 9pm.


Puras, left, of Spain, the leading driver in the Rally of Catalonia, looks on as a mechanic checks the engine of his Citroën car on the opening day

Power cut brings end to McRae's charge

From Jeremy Hart in Lloret de Mar

COLIN McRAE'S hopes of a hat-trick disappeared yesterday when the electronic brain on his Ford Focus robbed the Safari and Portugal rally-winning car of power halfway through the opening leg of the Rally of Catalonia.

McRae lost four minutes as he limped through La Fullaca-Arbucies stage in the mountains above Barcelona. He was driving so slowly that two other cars passed him on the treacherous hairpin corners. The Scot then lost another two minutes on the Cladells stage before Ford team mechanics could reach the car.

"I had no warning, there was a sudden loss of power about halfway into the stage," McRae said. "I checked the engine, but there was nothing obviously wrong. We managed to keep within our allotted time and stay in the rally, but any hope of points has almost certainly gone."

Ford were able to fix the car and send McRae back out into the fray after dropping to 39th place. The team told the 1995 world champion to use the rest of the rally as a test but he went on to set the fifth-fastest time on the penultimate stage before the finish of the leg in Lloret de Mar on the Costa Brava.

"It's a real shame. I had hopes of making it three wins here," McRae said. "Now we will have to use the rest of the rally as a test and come back to win in Corsica next month."

The rally was led last night by Jesus Puras and Philippe Bugalski, the Citroën pair. The French kit cars are built to different regulations than the world rally cars driven by the likes of McRae and on asphalt, the lighter two-wheel drive machines are lightning quick. "The other teams always call for us to be banned when we are faster than them on asphalt," Bugalski said, "but tomorrow's stages are better for the four-wheel drive world rally cars and then rain is forecast for Wednesday. The chances of us winning are quite small."

Didier Auriol, of France, the winner here last year, is in third place and Carlos Sainz, his Toyota team-mate and the local favourite, is fourth. The Spaniard called yesterday for spectators to keep back after the opening stage was cancelled due to crowd problems.

Tommi Makinen, the world champion, is in fifth place and Freddy Loix, his Mitsubishi team-mate, who is still recovering from injuries sustained in an accident on the Safari Rally, is sixth. Richard Burns, of Great Britain, is in seventh place in his Subaru.

ATHLETICS

London plans to stage showdown

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE thin blue line of the Flora London Marathon may have been more Rowan Atkinson than Ron Hill at times on Sunday, such were the eccentricities of the event, but the stars of the show will almost certainly be back next year.

Joyce Chepchumba and Abdelkader El Mouaziz said yesterday that they would be keen to defend their titles and David Bedford, who pulls together the elite fields, has taken the first steps towards arranging the head-to-head that would be the envy of all commercial marathons.

As London's decision to mock the generally accepted world record set by Tegla Loroupe, of Kenya, in Rotterdam last year drew a stinging response from the Netherlands yesterday, it emerged that Loroupe's representative has opened discussions with Bedford for next year. Loroupe's run of 2hr 20min 47sec in Rotterdam, where she was paced by men, so outraged London that it dropped its traditional world-record bonus and put up $125,000 (£84,000) for the first athlete to beat the best time in a women-only race.

Chepchumba took the money, yet her time of 2hr 23min 22sec was not even the fastest by a Kenyan woman on the day. In Rotterdam, Loroupe ran 34sec quicker. London hopes to resolve who is the best of the two women next year. Volker Wagner, who represents them both, said: "There are two things to decide: one is the money, but more important is the Olympic Games. Would one want to go there having been beaten?"

If the Chepchumba record was a bizarre entry into London Marathon folklore, the circumstances of El Mouaziz's victory were no less so. He ran away from some outstanding athletes, who paid the price of watching each other. The only barrier to him returning next year may be his national federation insisting on him racing in Marrakesh.

Results, pages 46, 47

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 51

NOME
(b) An ancient Greek form of musical composition.

PAPALINA
(a) A female papist. The feminine of *papalino*.

PINLOCK
(c) A poundmaster's fee for pinding or impounding beasts.

OPSONY
(a) Anything eaten with bread to give it relish.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1 Rxg6! hxg6 2 Nf7+ Kh7 3 g5! and now Black suffers due to the unfortunate position of his rook on c8, e.g. 3 ... Rgf8 4 Qh3+ Kg8 5 e6 Rxf7 6 exf7+ Kxf7 7 Qxc8 and wins.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Let's kiss and make up

Can We Still Be Friends?
Channel 5, 7pm

Yet another "relationships" game show would hardly be worth a mention save for the fact that this one is so cruel. Couples whose time together has turned sour stitch each other up in front of the cameras in the name of what Channel 5 calls "therapy". Schadenfreude, if you like that sort of thing. **Perry Cleveland-Peck**


Melinda Messenger hosts the new game show *Can We Still Be Friends?* (C5, 7pm)

Supernatural
BBC1, 8.30pm

The extraordinary opening sequence shows a power station tower being blown up — and how the event is perceived by pigeons roosting on it, snails crawling about nearby, and flies in the vicinity. This illustrates how some creatures shrink time while others (such as the snail) simply do not experience anything which occurs in less than a quarter of a second. Stunning photography and visual trickery also demonstrate the differing metabolic rates of the elephant and the elephant shrew, the hummingbird and the sloth, and how temperature affects not only the mobility but the vision of cold-blooded animals.

Driven
Channel 4, 8.30pm

The rally champion Penny Mallory joins the team of Mike Brewer and Jason Barlow for a new series of Channel 4's answer to *Top Gear*: all the more welcome for being fresher and less mannered than the BBC's mob. Tonight they compare the new Jaguar S-type with the BMW 528I SE and the Alfa Romeo 166; put the stripped-down Peugeot 306 Rally through its paces; and investigate getting discounts in this country on the three most popular small saloons.

The Decision: Hayley
Channel 4, 9pm

Following a 15-year-old from the fourth month of her pregnancy to the first months of independent living with her baby. This is about a whole collection of decisions: whether to have had an abortion; whether to stop going out late, drinking and smoking during her pregnancy; whether to obey the 6pm curfew imposed by the children's home after the baby is born; whether to wait until she is 18 before getting a flat of her own through the housing department. None of these decisions, apart from the first, comes easily to Hayley, whose young life was clearly badly affected by the break-up of her parents' marriage. The cost of the help that social services in North Durham provides for her is put at more than £50,000.

A Life of Grime
BBC1, 9.35pm

Behind the groan-worthy punning title is a good series following a year in the working life of the environmental health officers of Haringey, North London. John Peel narrates the films, which probably should not be watched while you are eating. Among the problems addressed in the first are cockroach infestation, an illegal street trade in goat meat and a two-bedroom flat in which 15 cats and five dogs are being kept. Next week: a flat in which a dead body has been left to rot for six weeks. **Tony Patrick**

RADIO CHOICE

The Drums of Battle
Radio 4, 1.30pm

Eventually, I assume, Christopher Cook's six-part series about music inspired by war will include *Tipperary* and *Bless 'em All*, thought just where the drums will come in, I can't imagine. Given the name of the series, I'm surprised how few percussive effects there are in episode one, though the last note we hear is played on what sounds like a tabor. As for the rest, it's shawm, lute, bagpipe and human voice all the way. Part one of *The Drums of Battle* is about the Crusades. This gives us the rare opportunity to hear a lament which Richard I is said to have composed while incarcerated in an Austrian castle. There are some nasty bits, too, including children being impaled on spits, barbecued, and then eaten.

Duke Ellington — Such Sweet Thunder
Radio 2, 9pm

Russell Davies, the writer and presenter of this trio of programmes about a true giant of jazz, has Shakespeare's Hippolyta to thank for the quotation he has borrowed in choosing the title of the series. It does fit his subject like a glove because, as Davies reminds us, though Ellington's music was often judged to be joyful, it was also underscored with a deep melancholy. Ellington was an astonishing amalgam of complementary talents: composer, bandleader, orchestrator and piano player. Anyone who knows anything about Davies's previous profiles of some of the great pioneers of jazz can confidently expect that all four of theses elements will be explored during this series. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **3.00pm** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce. Chart hits **8.00** Evening Session **10.00** Digital Update **10.10** John Peel **12.00** The Breezeblock **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Carl Davis Classics (3/13) **8.00** Nigel Ogden **9.00** Duke Ellington. Such Sweet Thunder. See Choice (1/3) **10.00** Whicker's New World. With Harold Evans, former Editor of *The Times* (4/7) **10.30** Lynn Parsons **12.00** Katrina Leskanich **3.00am** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Midday News with Allan Robb **1.00pm** Ian Payne **4.00** Drive. Peter Allen and Jane Garvey with news and sport **7.00** News Extra **7.30** The Tuesday Match. Commentary on Charlton v Tottenham in the FA Premiership. Plus, news of Norwich v Bolton in the First Division **10.00** Late Night Live with Brian Hayes **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Crime Fighters **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** The Sports Zone **7.00** The World of Formula 1 **8.00** Cheating Hearts with Jayne Irving **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am The Breakfast Show **9.30** Mark Forrest **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Gary Davies **1.00am** Richard Allen

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** World Business Report **8.15** Insight **8.30** On Screen **9.00** World News **9.05** Performance **9.20** Off the Shelf. Frankenstien **9.35** Discovery **10.00** World News **10.05** The Moonstone **10.20** The U.K. Top Twenty **10.50** Sports Round-Up **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Britain Today **11.45** World Business Report **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Omnibus **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.45** Sports Round-Up **2.00** Newshour **3.00** World News **3.05** Discovery **3.30** On Screen **4.00** World News **4.05** Sports Round-Up **4.15** Westway **4.30** Everywo man **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Insight **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Going South **6.45** Sports Round-Up **7.00** World News **7.15** Britain Today **7.30** Omnibus **8.00** World News **8.05** Discovery **8.30** Soundbyte **8.45** Off the Shelf: Frankenstein **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World News **10.05** World Business Report **10.20** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian Live **11.00** World News **11.15** Sports Round-Up **11.30** Jazzmatazz **12.00** World News **12.05am** Outlook **12.45** Insight **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Discovery **1.55** My Century **2.00** The World Today **2.30** On Screen **3.00** The World Today **3.30** World Business Report **3.4 5** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.20** Sports Round-Up **4.30** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones introduces listeners' favourites **2.00pm** Concerto. Tchaikovsky (Violin Concerto in D major) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Includes information updates, Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. Sport, finance and news updates, with John Brunning **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classical sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Dyson (Overture. At the Tabard Inn); Howard Hanson (The Lament for Beowulf); Bizet (The Fair Maid of Perth Suite); Berlioz (Harold in Italy) **11.00** Mann at Night. Music through till the small hours with Alan Mann **2.00am** Concerto. Tchaikovsky (Violin Concerto in D major (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

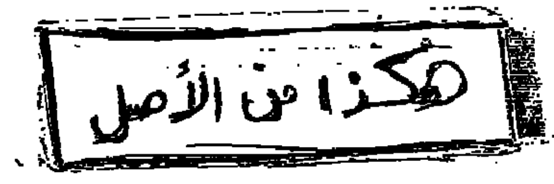
RADIO 3

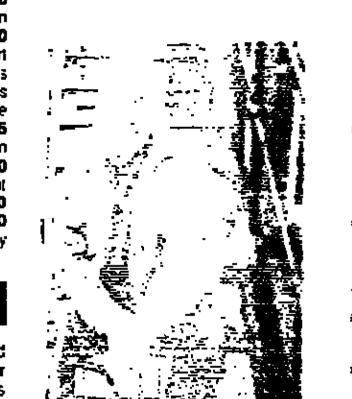
6.00am On Air Petroc Trelawy presents music and arts news, including a review of Handel's *Semele* at English National Opera
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Haydn (Nottimo No 1 in C, H II 25); Corelli (Concerto grosso in F, Op 6 No 2); Beethoven (Violin Sonata in G, Op 30 No 3), Hindemith (Kammermusik, Op 24 No 1); Telemann (Overture-Suite in F, Alster-Echo)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Gwyneth Jones
11.00 Sound Stories: Five Great Rivers The Thames
12.00 Composer of the Week: Stanford
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Leslie Newman, flute, Mark van de Wiel, clarinet, John Lenehan, piano. Villa-Lobos (Choro No 2 for piano, Op 148); Griffes (Poem for flute and piano); Bernstein (Clarinet Sonata); Lowell Liebermann (Flute Sonata); Calixa Levallee (The Butterfly) (r)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Liszt (Les preludes); Tchaikovsky (Rococo Variations); Strauss (Four Last Songs; Morgen); Brahms (Symphony No 1 in C minor)
4.00 Voices Barbara Bonney, soprano, and Malcolm Martineau, piano, perform songs by Schubert, Mendelssohn and Wolf
5.00 In Tune with Sean Rafferty. Music includes Liszt (Piano Concerto No 1 in E flat), played by Sviatoslav Richter
7.30 Performance on 3: Endless Parade An invitation concert given on Sunday in Studio One, Maida Vale. Music Projects/London under Richard Bernas. Cardew (Treatise, excerpt), Howard Skempton (Chamber Concerto), James Dillon (Come Live with Me), Alexander Goehr (The Deluge); Colin Matthews (Suns Dance)
9.25 Postscript: Private View Nicholas Ward Jackson explores the contemporary art world (2/5)(r)
9.50 Venetian Symphony A concert of early Baroque *music given last year at the Birmingham Oratory* Ex-Cathedra, David Ponsford, organ, His Majesties Sagbutts and Cornetts under Jeffrey Skidmore
11.00 Night Waves
11.30 Jazz Notes In the first of a two-part conversation with Alyn Shipton, Oscar Peterson looks back on his long career
12.00 Through the Night with Donald Macleod. Includes **12.05** Biber (Scordature Sonata) **12.20** Forqueray (La morangis ou la plissay) **12.30** Haydn (Sonata No 33 in C minor, H XVI 20) **12.45** Weber (Clarinet Concertino in E flat) **1.00** Music of the Original Academy of Ancient Music. Includes works by Geminiani, Handel, Wassenaer and Vivaldi **2.25** Schubert (11 Landler, D 366) **2.35** Brahms (Violin Sonata No 3 in D minor, Op 108) **3.00-4.00** Schools. Playtime **3.15** Time to Move **3.35** Let's Make a Story **3.50** Drama Workshop **4.10** In the News Topical Roundup **5.05** Toivo Kuula (Sinfonia, Jupiter) **5.15** Mozart (Symphony No 41 in C, K551, Jupiter) **5.50** Schubert (12 Ecossaises, D299)

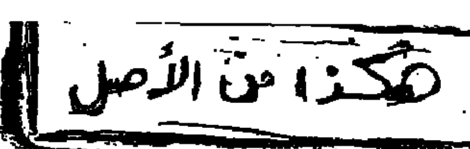
RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Charlotte Smith presents
6.00 Today with Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Round-up of political developments
9.00 Between Ourselves Olivia O'Leary introduces discussions about shared experiences
9.30 Song Lines David Stafford reveals the origins of American national anthem (5/5) (r)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service Director of music Ian Tracey
9.45 (FM) Thoughts of an Idle Fellow Hugh Laurie reads *On Cats and Dogs*, by Jerome K. Jerome
10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney and guests. Includes *Diary of a Provincial Lady*
11.00 Tales from the Back of Beyond The hardships endured by islanders who opted to stay in the wake of Montserrat's volcanic eruption
11.30 How Tickled Am I? Mark Radcliffe celebrates the career of Les Dawson (3/6)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours with Mark Whittaker and Trixie Rawlinson
1.00 The World at One Presented by Nick Clarke
1.30 The Drums of Battle New series. See Choice
2.00 The Archers Broadcast yesterday (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Jingle Michael Z. Lewin's tale of a tunesmith searching for satisfaction in his humdrum existence. Sharon D. Clarke and Shezwae Powell star
3.00 The Exchange: 0870 010 0444 Listeners' views on a topical issue
3.30 A Week at the Pitt Rivers The archaeologist Barry Cunliffe surveys a collection of amulets at Oxford's museum (2/5)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 77 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 A Good Read The actor Gareth Armstrong and the biographer Jenny Uglow discuss their favourite paperbacks with Sarah LeFanu
4.30 Shop Talk Business matters, presented by Heather Payton
5.00 PM with Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 I'm Glad You Asked Me That Offbeat guide to modern living, with Michael Bywater, Sean Meo, Philip Pope and the Nimmo Twins (4/6)
7.00 The Archers The latest events in Ambridge
7.15 Front Row John Wilson talks to the composer John Barry about his contribution to film music
7.45 Diary of a Provincial Lady E.M. Delafield's household journal. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 File on 4 Special Julian O'Halloran presents the first of two programmes analysing last summer's financial crisis in Moscow, and its humiliating consequences for the IMF (1/2)
8.40 In Touch Peter White presents news for visually impaired people
9.00 Case Notes Graham Easton explores the human skeleton
9.30 Between Ourselves Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight with Justin Webb
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Service of Clouds Joanna David reads part two of Susan Hill's novel
11.00 Late Night on 4: The Now Show Stand-up comedy and sketches with Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis (r)
11.30 (FM) Talking Pictures Brian Sibley talks to THE Cannes award-winning actor Peter Mullan and considers the comic genius of Harold Lloyd
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Round-up of developments
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Biggest Elvis Part two, written by P F. Kluge
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe







Take note as the the Big Apple bites back

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

One of the more depressing social phenomena of the past 20 years has been the absurd division between town and country, as if the one was on a different planet from the other. Such is the obsession with things rural that icons such as the Range Rover often get no closer to a four-wheel drive environment than a *spattering from street cleaners*.

The fightback of the city is long overdue. It may have begun in New York, which has never lacked *for vibrancy and excitement* but which tended to be the sort of place where Gucci on Fifth Avenue had become a convenience store; it was a *convenient store for* replacing the wallet you had just had stolen.

New York has cured many of its ills in the past few years by dint of tougher policing and other methods. The policing, at least the official version that the taxpayers support, has been well documented so *last night* the first part of a new series, **The Pull of the City** (BBC2), concentrated on the other methods and on some of the less desirable consequences.

This was very much a personal view by the presenter, Professor *Harvey Molotch of the LSE. The* programme was something of a trip home for Molotch, who spent his student days in the city. The *changes that he reported on may* have some important lessons for London, subject of Wednesday's programme in the series.

However, there was an early health warning when an investment banker told Molotch: "Whatever I tell you today probably won't be the same tomorrow." True, but corporate America, and in particular Internet America, has played a huge role in making Manhattan liveable again: which candidate for mayor of London will offer the same blueprint?

The programme piled up buzzwords as if they were bagels and chief among them was "wealth with responsibility". This predicates a caring corporate sector and, on the New York model, involves "business improvement districts" in which corporate cash *is used to improve the working* and living environment.

Here, no corporation dustcart strays. Instead, business pays for the street cleaning and the security. The presence of corporate security men produced Molotch's key caveat, which was that these atriums and air-conditioned malls are being cleared of "undesirables", which is basically people who do not "look right": vagrants, smokers, that sort of person.

Oh yes, and street traders. Over in Greenwich Village, where open-air trading still (just about) survives, a bookseller called Hakim Hasan said: "The sidewalk constitutes the last bastion of democratic contact in New York City."

Swish toilers in the industries that have funded the clean-up take the view that a mugging is a democratic contact most of us can live without, but the sanitising of an environment has the same effect as the pasteurising of milk: it takes out the good bacteria along with the bad. With cities as with milk, we won't know if the price is worth paying until it is too late.

The best thriller of the year so far opened last night and concludes tonight, so watch part two if you missed part one. **Butterfly Collectors** (ITV) is from the same team that wrote and produced *Cracker. It lacks some of* the tautness of *Cracker* but it is a classy and clever piece of work, all the more so for starting off as if it is a routine police thriller.

Pete Postlethwaite as the police inspector McKeown, and Jamie Draven as the 17-year-old Dex are terrific, totally convincing, separately and together. They meet when McKeown arrests Dex as a murder suspect but their unlikely relationship continues when McKeown learns that Dex is bringing up his younger brother and sister alone in a council house.

McKeown is disillusioned with police work, even to the extent of regarding a murder inquiry as scarcely worth the bother: "We spend months questioning pond life, pretending to know that they know why he died, but they don't know, *they'll make it up, because* they're bored out of their skulls and they're flattered we asked."

Not the least of the cleverness in *Butterfly Collectors* is that the viewer often feels a step ahead of the detective. Surely McKeown is out on a limb? Surely Dex, who has built a beautiful garden behind his house, is too good to be true? Both of those smug assumptions are assisted near the end of part one when McKeown helps Dex to steal a shrub.

The writing (by Paul Abbott) has the crispness and world-weary touches of humour that characterised *Cracker* and Jean Stewart's direction maintains the pace without ever overlooking the detail, a trick that cannot be easy to pull off or it would happen more often in television drama.

Of course the real life of the police is neither half as interesting *nor half as complex, but I am still* having trouble trying to dislike **Cop Shop** (ITV). I ought to hate this series about the policing of Gosport in *Hampshire*, even more so now that it has turned into a soppy yarn about coppers in love.

Yet there is something slightly olde worlde about the programme. However, last night's episode was made by a 16-year-old car thief whose career was intimately related to the crime stats: when he was locked up, car thefts went down.

The lad, known as Billy (not his real name), did not always steal cars. On one occasion, needing to get to a court appearance, he stole a moped. We saw two policemen taking Billy on a tour of the town during which he admitted 21 other car thefts (with which he will not of course be charged), thus tidying up the crime figures. Car owners will be thrilled to hear that.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (56556)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (92285)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (9761594)
9.45 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T); World Book Day (730865)
10.15 The Vanessa Show (T) (2992038)
11.00 News; Weather (T) (5622198)
11.05 City Hospital (T) (9832827)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (1513930)
12.00 Going for a Song (8431317)
12.25pm Just a Minute (T) (5281894)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (11322952)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (95372)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (58760204)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (16911001)
2.05 Through the Keyhole (T) (51364827)
2.30 Snooker (7356198)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (8212198) **3.45** Arthur (2209136) **4.10** Rugrats (1046020) **4.20** Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (5509310) **4.35** G Force (7200643) **5.00** Newsround (5232440) **5.10** Trading Places (2000339)
5.33 Rewind (T) (292827)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (620310)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (575)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (827)
7.00 ***Holiday: Fasten Your Seatbelt*** New series. David Gower and Rory McGrath get work experience at one of India's most prestigious hotels, the Taj Mahal in *Mumbai (T) (7152)*
7.30 EastEnders (T) (339)
8.00 Animal Hospital More sick and injured animals are treated by the vets at the RSPCA's Harmsworth Hospital (T) (9020)
8.30 CHOICE **Supernatural: The Unseen Power of Animals** Insight into the nature of time (T) (5827)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (345136)



George Whardley, an environmental health officer (9.35pm)

9.35 CHOICE **A Life of Grime** New series exploring the work of environmental health officers (T) (342662)
10.05 Crimewatch UK *(T) (198681)*
11.00 They Think It's All Over (r) (T) (3440)
11.30 Crimewatch UK Update (T) (822579)
11.40 In the Blink of an Eye (1996) Drama in which a film-maker resolves to expose the wrongful convictions of her lover and a friend for the killing of two policemen. Directed by Micki Dickoff (T) (663575)
1.05am Weather (5432063)
1.10 BBC News 24 (43523537)

WALES

3.30 Party Election Broadcast (699117) 9.35 Vote 99 — The Debate (305759) 10.25 Crimewatch UK (T) (185117) 11.20 A Life of Grime (T) (674989) 11.50 They Think It's All Over (858001) 12.20am Crimewatch UK Update (T) (2397763) 12.30 FILM: In the Blink of an Eye (T) (5059082) 1.55 News Headlines (2957150) 2.00-6.00 BBC News 24 (2867112)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Noddy in Toyland (94643) **7.30** Top Cat (8711469) **7.55** Blue Peter (8069662) *8.20 Dastardly and Muttley (4114285)* **8.45** Polka Dot Shorts (3256223) **8.55** Small Stories (1895643) **9.00** Spanish Globo (4795681) **9.10** Go for It! (4782117) **9.25** Music Makers (9337223) **9.45** Numbertime (7145643) **10.00** Teletubbies (89223) **10.30** Watch (3700488) **10.45** The Earth and Beyond (9222469) **11.05** Space Ark (5636391) *11.15* Megamaths (1695933) *11.35* Isabel (4749136) **11.55** Techno (2039372) **12.15pm** Number Adventures (7823001) **12.30** Working Lunch (29778) **1.00** Oakie Doke (38995681)
1.10 Snooker: World Championship This morning's action (9137846)
2.30 Beautiful Things (5025778)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (8087285)
2.45 Westminster (T) (5833117)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (5573223)
3.30 Snooker: World Championship Further coverage (647049)
6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air American comedy with Will Smith (r) (T) (580594)



The rapper Busta Rhymes talks to *Jayne Middlemiss (6.25pm)*

6.25 The O Zone Jamie Theakston talks to Sharleen Spiteri, lead singer with Texas, *and Jayne Middlemiss meets the rapper* Busta Rhymes (T) (677594)
6.45 Snooker: World Championship Stephen Hendry begins his first-round match (944049)
7.30 Counterblast (T) (681)
8.00 University Challenge Open University v Durham (T) (7662)
8.30 The Antiques Show Behind the scenes of London's biggest auction (T) (3469)
9.00 Snooker: World Championship David Vine presents further coverage of the first-round matches (84234049)
10.33 Video Nation Shorts (T) (988556)
10.35 Newsnight (T) (706759)
11.25 The Pull of the City The sights and sounds of Mexico (2/3) (329812)
11.55 Weather (646488)
12.00 Despatch Box (32044)
12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Caught in Time **1.00** Scoring Achievements **1.30** Transforming the World **2.00** Schools: Primary PSHE **4.00** Languages: Deutsch Plus 17-20 **5.00** Business and Training: Career Moves — Office Work **5.45** Open University: New Generations/Piping Hot **6.35** Of Fish and People — Modelling a Muddle

WALES

11.05am Your Assembly: The Ultimate Guide (5636391) 11.15-11.15 Daytime On Two (719372) 6.45pm FAW Premier Cup (95240933) 9.00 University Challenge (T) (9865) 9.30 The Antiques Show (T) (91894) 10.00 Snooker (95223) 10.30-10.33 Party Election Broadcast (988556)

HTV

5.30am ITV Morning News (92846)
6.00 GMTV (2604204)
9.25 Trisha (T) (3357575)
10.30 This Morning (T) (49964643)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7827827)
12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (2441681)
12.55 Shortland Street (1517759)
1.30 Lie Detector (T) (16917285)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (5875643)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2871198)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5572594)
3.15 HTV News (T) (5571865)
3.20 CITV: Maisy (5578778) **3.25** Rosie and Jim (6596914) **3.40** The Wombles (4832759) **3.50** Scooby and Scrappy Doo (7738778) **4.10** Snap (7808339) **4.40** The Quick Trick Show (2711285)
5.00 Catchphrase (r) (T) (5204)
5.30 WEST: Can You Keep a Secret? Local youngsters spring pleasant surprises on their parents and grandparents (T) (730)
5.30 WALES: Family Affairs Traditional family-run businesses (T) (730)
5.58 HTV Weather *(299730)*
6.00 HTV News (T) (643)
6.25 WALES: Party Election Broadcast Socialist Labour Party Wales (816556)
6.29 HTV Crimestoppers *(816556)*
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (223)



Paddy's Mum (Judi Jones) reveals her dying wish (7pm)

7.00 Emmerdale Paddy's mother makes one last request (T) (5440)
7.30 WEST: Crimestoppers Special Kevin Owen presents crime reconstructions and security video footage of criminals caught in the act (407)
7.30 WALES: Wales Decides '99 New series. *Key battlegrounds in the National* Assembly elections (1/3) (407)
8.00 The Bill DC Lennox and DC Proctor employ differing *methods* in an *investigation (T) (1339)*
9.00 Butterfly Collectors DI John McKeown (Pete Postlethwaite) becomes obsessed with uncovering the secrets of Dex's life. Conclusion of the psychological thriller, with Jamie Draven (2/2) (T) (7020)
10.30 The Grimleys Ron Atkinson guest-stars. Last in series (6/6) (T) (75469)
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (340372)
11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (235001)
11.30 The Thoughts of Chairman Alf with Warren Mitchell (T) (72933)
12.00 The Big Match Champions' League preview (29570)
12.30am The Haunted Fishtank (15889)
1.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (3541570)
1.45 Judge Judy (T) (8326402)
2.35 Wish You Were Here? (r) (T) (5435624)
3.05 McGilloway's Way Rambles around Ireland (82610860)
3.30 Football Extra Football League highlights (r) (1646686)
4.25 Coach American comedy (r) (34890137)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen (3118624)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (9045556) **12.55 Lie Detector** (T) (2426372) **1.25 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (4607488) **2.10-2.40 Winners** (2/6) (r) (T) (89670759) **3.15-3.20 Central News;** Weather (T) (5571865) **5.30 Shortland Street** (730) **6.00-6.30 Central News at Six;** *Weather (T) (643)* **7.30-8.00 30 Minutes** (407) **11.20-11.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (235001) **11.30 The Big Match** (351778) **12.05am The Haunted Fishtank** (8675599) **12.35 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (9005711) **1.20 Judge Judy** (T) (3567518) **2.10 Wish You Were Here?** (r) (T) (8563711) **2.35 McGilloway's Way** (4827686) **3.00 Football Extra** (r) (3383402) **3.55 Central Jobfinder '99** *(T) (6253792) 5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (9365570)*

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm News** (T) (7827827) **12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live** (T) (2426372) **1.25 Jerry Springer** (T) (4607488) **2.10-2.40 Lie Detector** (T) (89670759) **3.15-3.20 News** (T) (5571865) **5.30 Our House** (T) (730) **6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live** (T) (643) **7.30-8.00 On Foot** (1/6) (T) (407) **11.20-11.30 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (235001) **11.30 The Big Match** (72933) ***12.00-12.30 Campus Cops*** *(29570)* **2.10am-2.35 Judge Judy** (T) (8563711)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 News** (7827827) **5.30 Monkey Business** (4/7) (r) (730) **6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight** (T) (643) **7.30-8.00 Decision Time** (1/8) (T) (407) **11.20 Meridian News** (T) (235001) **11.30 The Big Match** (72933) **12.00-12.30 Pier Pressure** (r) (29570) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (50547)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.14pm Anglia Air Watch** (9058020) **12.15-12.30 Anglia News *and Weather*** *(7827827)* ***5.25-6.00 About*** **Anglia** (8444402) **6.00-6.30 Anglia News** (T) (643) **7.30-8.00 Taking on Truancy** (407) **11.19 Anglia Air Watch** (866020) **11.20 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (235001) **11.30-12.30 Midweek Kick-Off** (49391)

S4C

Starts: **6.00am Sesame Street** (r) (86031198) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (69607339) **9.00 Ysgolion:** Science in Focus (67927204) **9.20 Express** (92914846) **9.30 Eureka** (37437407) ***9.45 Stop, Look, Listen*** *(37425662)* ***10.00 The*** **Number Crew** (11195371) **10.10 Technoleg Ewropeaidd** (56330049) **10.40 GNVQ - Is It For You 2** (71375643) **11.00 First Edition** (25085575) **11.15 Stage One** (25075198) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (90302933) **12.00 Caroline in the City** (T) (63131001) **12.30pm Sesame Street** (T) (93039469) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (69677198) **1.30 Little Gems** (98324391) **1.50** ***FILM: It Always Rains on*** **Sunday** (95909049) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (99083952) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (99079759) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (99068643) **5.00 Planed Plant** (41440556) **5.30 Countdown** (r) (T) (99062223) **6.00 Party Election Broadcast** (T) (70801827) **6.05 Newyddion** (T) (70800198) **6.10 Heno** (T) (39304488) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (41453020) **7.30 Darllediad Etholiadol** (T) (56581222) **7.35 Newyddion** (T) (31930339) **8.05 Cwd Garddio** (T) (84386594) **8.35 Pengelli** (T) (52592759) **9.05 Achabachyn: Y Bwystfil** ***Oddi Mewn*** *(r) (33416778)* **9.50 Chwedl Y Comed** (18048575) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (51814488) **10.35 X-Rated Ricki** (T) (92334407) **11.20 The 11 O'Clock Show** (85435846) **11.50 Smack the Pony** (T) (67030407) **12.20am The Establishment** (3/6) (T) (15037570) **12.50 The Last of the Hiding Tribes** (3/3) (T) (86643082) **1.50 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (72594)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (18223)
9.00 Schools: Science in Focus (9310556) **9.20** Express (3999198) **9.30** Eureka (7142556) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (7170339) **10.00** The Number Crew (7048730) **10.10** Chuck Wallace's Middle *Age Spread (1369778)* ***10.25*** Haud Yer Tongue (1357933) **10.40** GNVQ. Is It For You? (9241594) **11.00** First Edition V (6137001) **11.15** Stage One (6150952)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (2198)
12.00 Sesame Street (r) (T) (89662)
12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (14846)
1.00 Caroline in the City (T) (11310)
1.30 Little Gems Collecting fun (58777594)
1.45 Our Very Own (1950) A teenager's life is turned upside down by the discovery that she is adopted (93695846) FILM
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (371)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (136)
4.30 Countdown (T) (7227310)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (9072643)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (372)
6.00 King of the Hill Hank has to choose between the Superbowl Sunday party and Luanne's puppet show (r) (T) (285)
6.30 Home Improvement Tim loses Jill's Valentine present (T) (824575)
6.55 Planet Pop The latest news from the music scene (616778)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (182372)
7.50 New Labour, New Language Examination of the ideas behind new Labour's buzz-words (2/5) (T) (744310)
8.00 Brookside Callum puts Lindsey's life in danger (T) (2730)





Mike Brewer, Penny Mallory and Jason Barlow present (8.30pm)

8.30 CHOICE **Driven** New series of the motoring magazine (T) (1865)
9.00 CHOICE **The Decision** New series. Case studies of children and their social workers (1/3) (T) (6950339)
10.15 X-Rated Ricki Guests who torture animals (T) (550407)
11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show (470117)
11.35 Electric Avenue The enduring bond between budding boxers Danny Williams and Spencer Fearon (3/5) (T) (852827)
12.05am Onedotzero (7174063)
12.40 Inside Algeria Profile of railroad worker Ali Lamar (4/4) (2913266)
1.10 Russia's Holy War A look at the impact of American street preachers in Russia (r) (5070614)
2.10 The Power List: Scotland Jon Snow profiles Scotland's most powerful residents (r) (T) (7068150)
3.05 Brussels Behind Closed Doors Anita Pollack, MEP, strives to find a solution to a disagreement over acceptable limits of benzene in petrol (2/3) (r) (3380315)
4.00 Schools: Tackling Technology (8138957) **5.15** The English Programme (9461063) **5.40** Film and Video Showcase (2515995)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headline round-up (5565865)
7.00 WideWorld Part three. Russell Grant continues his investigation of local history (r) (T) (2415681)
7.30 Milkshake! (2210339)
7.35 Muppet Babies; 5 News Update (4634952)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (8414285)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (8413556)
9.00 The Roseanne Show (5127594)
9.50 Russell Grant's Postcards (T) (8535827)
9.55 The Bold and the Beautiful The men's fashion show is a success (T) (8361846)
10.20 Sunset Beach Caitlin refuses to donate blood (T) (4827407)
11.10 Leeza (3582372)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8417372)
12.30pm Family Affairs Pam gets a nuisance call (r) (T); 5 News Update (3338371)
1.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show Heated *debate with Oprah* and guests (T) (4485933)
1.50 McMillan and Wife: Cop of the Year (TVM 1973) The detective duo *investigate the murder of a fellow* policeman's ex-wife. Light-hearted mystery, with Rock Hudson. Directed by Bob Lewis; 5 News Update (28527440) FILM
3.15 Dear Heart (1965) Romantic drama about two postal workers who fall in love at a convention. Glenn Ford stars. Directed by Delbert Mann (T) (60948488) FILM
5.20 5 News (59826933)
5.30 100 Per Cent (6712136)
6.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories (T) (6719049)
6.30 Family Affairs Pete gets his belongings back (T); 5 News Update (6793001)
7.00 CHOICE **Can We Still Be Friends?** New series. Melinda Messenger hosts a comedy game show featuring couples whose relationships have gone sour (1/15) (2729285)
7.30 Aussie Birds The breeding habits of the magpie (T); 5 News Update (6799285)
8.00 Fraud Family: Are You Being Cheated? Will Daws examines how ten members of the Sharif family managed to con insurance companies, the DSS and the *Government out of £3million* over five years, meeting the tireless investigators who would not rest until the fraudsters were brought to book (3/4) (T) (2738933)
8.30 What Went Wrong? Footage of an oil tank explosion and a car which crashed into a river in Las Vegas; 5 News Update (2717440)
9.00 Wiseguy (TVM 1996) A government agent attempts to expose a multi-millionaire businessman's nefarious schemes by ingratiating himself with the family. Thriller, with Ken Wahl, Deborah Farentino, Ted Levine and Jonathan Banks. Directed by James Whitmore Jr (T); 5 News Update (49862407) FILM
10.50 Two Gus makes a frantic escape bid after being traced to Manorville, leaving Carter critically injured (6425371)
11.45 Live and Dangerous Dutch football (63672001)
5.30am 100 Per Cent (r) (8509315)

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SKY ONE
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SKY MOVIEMAX
[illegible]

SKY CINEMA
[illegible]

FILMFOUR
[illegible]

TNT
[illegible]

SKY SPORTS 1
[illegible]

SKY SPORTS 2
[illegible]

SKY SPORTS 3
[illegible]

EUROSPORT
[illegible]

UK GOLD
[illegible]

GRANADA PLUS
[illegible]



Kyle MacLachlan and Isabella Rossellini star in David Lynch's enigmatic drama *Blue Velvet* (Sky Cinema, 10pm)

CARLTON SELECT
[illegible]

DISNEY CHANNEL
[illegible]

NICKELODEON
[illegible]

TROUBLE
[illegible]

FOX KIDS NETWORK
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BRAVO
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PARAMOUNT COMEDY
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THE SCI-FI CHANNEL
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HOME & LEISURE
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DISCOVERY
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ANIMAL PLANET
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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
[illegible]

HISTORY
[illegible]

CARLTON FOOD
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LIVING
[illegible]

ZEE TV
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LONDON MARATHON
The full list of finishers continues on pages 46, 47

SPORT

MOTOR RALLYING
McRae loses his Focus with electrical problems in Spain



TUESDAY APRIL 20 1999

Wenger still keen on troubled striker

Fowler's folly fails to put off Arsenal

BY MATT DICKINSON

ROBBIE FOWLER'S lurch from one sorry episode to another could have a happy ending if Liverpool tire of his controversial antics. Arsenal remain interested purchasers and are hopeful that the Merseyside club may yet decide to wash their hands of the England striker and his troubles.

Fowler's latest appearance on the front pages followed an attack on him that left him with a broken nose. A man has been charged with assault after the incident in a Liverpool hotel in the early hours of Sunday morning and while there is no suggestion that Fowler was in any way to blame, he appears unable to evade scandal at present.

Fowler, 24, was hoping to keep his nose clean after a Football Association disciplinary hearing at which he was suspended for two matches for homosexual taunts at Graeme Le Saux and banned for four matches for a goal celebration in which he appeared to pretend to snort cocaine.

The FA, and his club, each fined him £32,000 — a week's wages — and, apart from possible appearances for England, he will not play again this season.

Fowler signed a new five-year contract at Anfield only a few months ago, which appeared to have ended speculation that he might follow Steve McManaman out of the club this summer, but the succession of controversial incidents may persuade Liverpool to listen to offers.

One of those is almost certain to come from Highbury, where Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, remains a committed fan. Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, is also a firm admirer, but there will be the problem of finding the £10 million that is the minimum price for Fowler and the player's loyalties to Merseyside would make a move along the M62 difficult.

That is not the case with Arsenal, who seem certain to spend heavily on a striker this summer. Nicolas Anelka's repeated complaints about the loneliness of life in London have sparked interest from all over Europe and Arsenal expect him to depart sooner rather than later. Barcelona is a possible destination and Wenger could expect to recoup at least as many millions as Fowler would cost. It appears certain that he will test Liverpool's patience with the player.

A move may do Fowler, as well as Liverpool, some good. Gérard Houllier, the manager, is a fan, but he is about to embark on a rebuilding programme at Anfield and will need funds. The partnership of Fowler and Michael Owen, two small, predatory forwards, remains an unproven one.

Fowler, who was raised in Toxteth, still has a huge loyalty to his home city and to the friends who have barely changed since childhood, but he could not be blamed now for wondering if a transfer might bring an upturn in his fortunes.

He has slipped behind Owen in the pecking order at Anfield, despite his own phenomenal record as a goalscorer, and he has had to change his game so that he can act more as a provider for his younger accomplice.

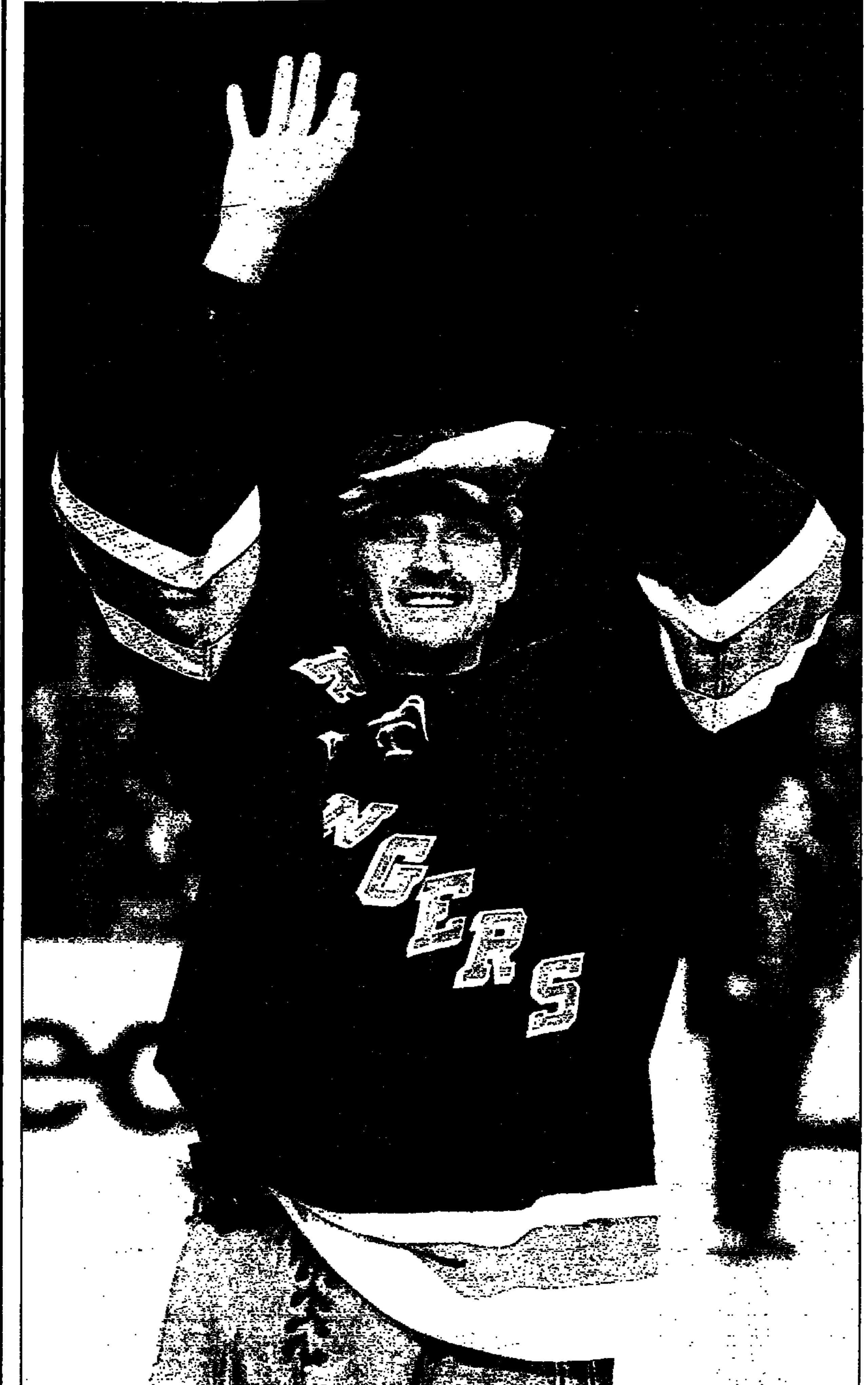
Liverpool would probably have been forced to sell him this summer if he had not renewed his contract because, with only one year remaining on his previous deal, they would not have risked him departing like McManaman on a free transfer.

Unless the team improves drastically in the coming months, Fowler may have some regrets in re-signing if Liverpool do decide to let matters calm down over the summer and keep him to his extended contract.

Highbury is a possible bolthole should he want to move from Merseyside, although there will be some who will question the wisdom of heading to the bright lights of London, given his present predicament.



Fowler has continued to score goals despite the controversy



End of an era: a tearful Gretzky shields his eyes as he waves goodbye to the fans at Madison Square Garden

Gretzky leaves everyone ice cold

Devlin Barrett charts the emotional exit of a sporting great

IT HAS been on the lips of every sport fan in North America for the past week. Wayne Gretzky, at 38, is retiring from ice hockey. It cannot be true. It is true. It happened here in New York on Sunday, a thundering ovation inside Madison Square Garden to say goodbye to the greatest player the game has known.

The United States has now lost two of its finest sportsmen in a year, Gretzky and Michael Jordan. On Sunday, Jordan called Gretzky to give him some advice on life after the game, telling him to enjoy the send-off and to get excited about becoming a full-time dad. But there was also advice about the downside of hanging up the skates.

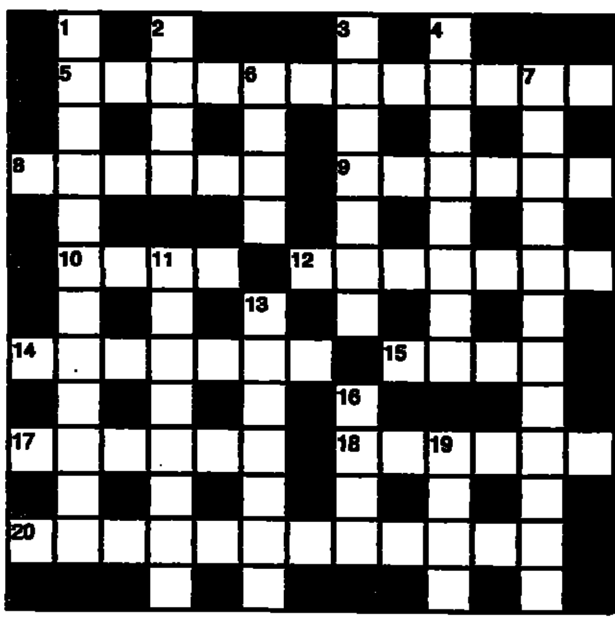
"Your golf game is not going to get better, so don't think that will help," Jordan told him. "It will probably get worse, because you've got more time."

Basketball and ice hockey fans will need time, too, time to recover. Jordan did things that no one else could; Gretzky saw things that no one else could . His final game for the New Yopri Rangers, against Pittsburgh Penguins, proved one last time that whatever age and injury may have taken away, they have not touched his tear-stained eyes. After an emotional 20-minute pre-game ceremony to honour his career, Gretzky, known as "The Great One" since the age of 10, reminded everybody once again what made him so special.

During his career, he shattered 61 ice hockey records — itself a record — and Paul Kariya, today's brightest young star, would have to play until he is 46 to equal Gretzky's tallies of 894 goals and 1,963 assists.

First Jordan, now Gretzky. For fans who live on either sport, the colours on the uniforms will never again be quite so bright. Gretzky, retired? It will be a long time before anyone here really believes it.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1696

ACROSS
5 The skill of gardening (12)
8 High-spirited romp (6)
9 A hat; Svengali's subject (6)
10 Language of Pakistan (4)
12 Fabric hanging in folds (7)
14 Specially hire (eg aircraft) (7)
15 Sudden loud noise; right (on time) (4)
17 Its young fed on milk (6)
18 Fugitive from justice (6)
20 Habitual, almost automatic, trait (6,6)

DOWN
1 Main road (12)
2 Spoken (4)
3 A break (7)
4 Former Abyssinia (8)
6 Part of foot; small island (4)
7 Poet and *I, Claudius* author (6,6)
11 A National Park; a prison (8)
13 Gaelic social (7)
16 Duty list (4)
19 Ruffian (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1695
ACROSS: 1 Bucolic 5 Super 8 Kudos 9 Vibrant 10 Without tears 12 Levity 14 Covert 17 Black and blue 21 Albania 22 Plant 23 Preen 24 East End
DOWN: 1 Bakewell 2 Cadet 3 Last out 4 Cavity 5 Sabre 6 Prairie 7 Rote 11 Attested 13 Voluble 15 Oedipus 16 Savage 18 Canon 19 Leave 20 Rasp

Wise escapes 'biting' penalty

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

DENNIS WISE, the Chelsea captain, was perhaps due a change of fortune in a season blighted by personal controversy. He received it yesterday from Uefa, the European governing body of football, which decided that he had no case to answer for the alleged "biting" incident during Chelsea's Cup Winners' Cup semi-final, first leg against Real Mallorca at Stamford Bridge 12 days ago.

Wise became involved with Elena Marcelino, the Mallorca defender, and appeared to sink his teeth into Marcelino's shoulder. Although the unaffectionate gesture was not noticed by the referee, it was captured on television, replayed a number of times and subsequently reproduced in national newspapers. After it had been drawn to the attention of Uefa, he was charged with "improper conduct".

Although Wise vehemently proclaimed his innocence — "I did not bite him, I was just gesturing to bite him," he said — a Uefa disciplinary committee met yesterday to consider his case. It concluded that a fine or suspension was not appropriate, but censured the fiery midfield player for his actions.

A Uefa spokesman said: "Sanctions can be imposed for incidents of misconduct not seen by the referee only if such conduct corresponds to gross unsportsmanship. The incident must be so serious that failing to punish it would contradict general legal opinion.

"After reviewing the evidence, the disciplinary body felt that although the player's unsporting gesture warrants clear disapproval, there is no legal basis in Uefa's regulations for imposing a disciplinary sanction. The case was therefore dismissed."

Wise, who has been sent off four times and missed 15 matches because of suspension this season, can consider himself fortunate. Blaming the Uefa charge on a concerted media campaign, rather than questioning his lack of self-control, only sullies even further his much-tarnished reputation.

Whether he actually bit Marcelino or simply pretended to is almost irrelevant. It was a stupid, albeit instinctive, act from an experienced professional.

Gwyn Williams, the Chelsea assistant manager, described the verdict as "sensible", a predictable reaction from a club that fiercely protects its own and one that was probably tinged with relief.

Wise is now available for the second leg of the semi-final in Majorca on Thursday, with the tie finely balanced at 1-1, and his tenacious leadership — the more acceptable side of his character — will be needed.

Austin seeks cover from sponsor

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK



Austin has found a novel method of seeking backing

THESE days, publicity-hungry sportsmen and women will, it seems, do anything for a little coverage. Denise Austin, a beach volleyball player, hopes that as little coverage as possible will gain her maximum exposure.

The photograph of herself around which she has built her one-woman campaign for funding is a clear reference to a television advertisement for a well-known brand of German car, in which a female naturist guards her modesty with a strategically-placed placard reading "I don't play volleyball".

Austin, 30, is ranked No 1 in the United Kingdom in a sport that is now an Olympic event. Unlike Audrey Cooper and Mo Glover, the Great Britain representatives in the Atlanta Olympic Games, she has no world ranking and is desperately short of the funding that she requires to take part in overseas competition, such as the World Series event in Canada in June and, with luck, the Sydney Olympics next year.

Part of the problem is a lack of publicity and she hopes that the photograph will put that right. "I've won every competition in Great Britain for the last two years," she said. "I've been undefeated, but I've never had a write-up."

The photograph was taken in her back garden in the North Devon village of Croyde, by her husband, Nick. Had he needed much persuading? "He's all for it," she said. "With beach volleyball, you have to use any form of publicity you can." And, some might say, women's costumes in such sports as volleyball are not exactly designed to leave much to the imagination in any case.

She needs £1,000 to get to Canada — "but I'd also have to take time off work [she is a restaurant supervisor at Croyde Bay holiday village]. We're talking £15-20,000 to get to Sydney 2000." In case anyone accuses her of bare-faced cheek in demanding assistance, it is worth pointing out that she funded herself for three months' training in Brazil this winter with Monica Rodrigues, a silver medal-winner at Atlanta, and her coach.

If all goes well, Austin will be partnered in Canada, and thereafter, by Monique Oliver, who is based in the United States but is a British passport-holder. Vanessa Malone, Austin's regular partner, was not in a position to commit herself to the demands of international competition for which Austin had always hankered.

"I've always looked towards that, but I've never put myself in the position to do it." Austin said. "I've decided that it's now or never."